

REGINALD KING



ACHIEVING YOUR CAREER GOALS. PROFILE No 5



Course: **Certificate II in Electrotechnology**
GTO: **Group Training Northern Territory**
Host Employer: **Yarralin Community**



Reggie lives in the remote Yarralin Community in the Northern Territory and although already a qualified chef he decided to retrain in electrotechnology, taking on a position as an assistant Essential Services Operator. Reggie works with the council and the contractor to ensure the day to day operations of the water supply, generation of electricity and maintenance of the sewerage systems. Reggie's position relies on a high level of communication skills and he is now involved in training apprentices and trainees. In his role as leader of a small team within a larger works division, he sets a good example with his thorough and dedicated approach.

Reggie, how important is going to work, earning an income and doing the things that you want to do in your life?

I believe it's very important because it's what makes me what I am today. I don't have a HECS debt, I can save my money, I can buy a car, a house. I don't have to worry about that sort of stuff because I'm qualified now in my trade. I don't have to go to school for the next four to seven years. That's what I wanted to do and Group Training has helped me do that.

With Group Training it seems there's a flexible system where you're able to go and work with one host employer and then maybe go and learn some other skills with another host employer. Did you move around?

No I didn't. I didn't swap from one host employer to another. I had a three month trial period and stayed there for about two and a half years. I deferred my apprenticeship. Went to Queensland for about two and a half months, came back and finished it off. That was in the third year of my apprenticeship.

What do you count as your major achievements?

A couple of sporting things. Winning a couple of premierships, captaining a couple of sides. Also I wanted to be running a restaurant or kitchen or something and I was doing that in my third year of my apprenticeship at Katherine Gorge. I also ran the boat tours as a tour guide. That was one of my other goals and now just working where I am, loving the community and the country that I'm living in.

Do you think you set a good example for your people in your community?

Well I'd like to think I do. I don't know if I do or not. You'd have to ask the rest of the guys in the community. Basically you have to have pride in yourself and in your culture or where you're from. Say I'm gonna be better or I'm gonna learn this today or I'm gonna be bettering myself. And there's no excuse, it's just up to you to get out and do it.

That's a very good answer. You've obviously got fabulous parents that have...

Oh yeah. They pointed me on the right path. Whether I wanted to go that way or live on the streets, you can strive to better yourself. I hope to live in my own paid off house in ten years time you know. I think someone famously quoted, "Life is what you make of it." If you go down the bad path, you gonna end up in limbo. If you go up the good path, it's up to you what you can make of it. It's up to you.

Where do you see yourself in five years time? What's important to you?

In about six months I hope to be a father for the first time. And in five years I want to be at the top. This isn't the end for me, I want to keep going up, up, up. The place I'm working at now they're talking about sending me to business management school. There's a new shire council starting up, I see myself sitting on that board or up at the top there somewhere anyway.

Thank you very much Reg. That was really good. That's it.



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