



COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL
Scholarship Program

BOARDING SCHOOL HELPED PAYTON'S INDEPENDENCE

Moving to a boarding school in Western Australia was a significant change for Payton. For many regional families, such an opportunity would be financially impossible, but the Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program made it a reality for her. While the adjustment wasn't easy at first, especially being away from her family for long stretches, she's fully embraced the experience, building strong friendships and growing more independent along the way.

With access to great tutoring and study facilities—like her own laptop and dedicated desk in her room—Payton is focused on boosting her grades before heading into the all-important Year 12. She's determined to find a career that matches her passions and strengths.

"I have obtained skills from my trade classes and farm days that I would never have got at home. I am looking to get better at English and have sought help and tutoring to do so," Payton said. These opportunities have helped her explore new interests and sharpen her skills.

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I know that I love hands-on learning and my school has given me the opportunity to do farming work, woodwork and construction. I might take one of those things on as a career.

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The boarding school has been a game-changer for Payton's growth. It's not just about hitting the books—it's helped her develop key life skills like managing her time, stepping up as a leader and standing on her own two feet. The structured setup of boarding life has given her a solid foundation to build these abilities.

"I must make sure I am awake and ready in time for room inspections and then go have breakfast. Then I need to get ready for classes and make sure to be at my classes on time. Most weekends are my cleaning days, when I clean my room and do my own laundry and bed linen. Once during the week and maybe on the weekend, we have the opportunity to be taken into town, where we can go shopping and buy our own food or anything else we may need like shampoo, toothpaste etc.," she said.

Payton's love for sports has also shone through. "I love sport and participated at country week last year with my school where I played netball. I learnt to play a game I love, with other people who didn't really know how to play netball, and against other schools from around WA. I found myself a sort of leader as I was the most experienced player on our team," she shared. Stepping up as a leader on the netball court showed her she could guide and inspire others.

As Year 12 approaches, Payton's ready to push her academic performance, expand her circle of friends and get a clearer picture of her future career path. From a challenging start to a place of growth and possibility, her boarding school journey—supported by the Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program—is setting her up for what's next.

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