

A positive experience

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy for Libraries and Archives

The Cape York Land Council, an Aboriginal Corporation serving Aboriginal communities and traditional owners of the Cape York Peninsula, offered Glenda Storer a traineeship through the ALIA/ASA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy for the Library, Information and Archives sector in 1997. Glenda studied for her library technician qualification through Box Hill TAFE in Victoria, whilst working for the Cape York Land Council Library in its Cairns office.

Partaking in this strategy has been a positive experience for the organisation, the mentor, and the trainee herself. The strategy has given Glenda the opportunity to gain academic credit for many years of employment within the library sector. In particular the studies have allowed her to expand her research skills, formal written skills, management skills and interpersonal skills. She has undertaken further internet training and was asked to give a short speech at the Brisbane ATSLIRN conference concerning her

traineeship. These opportunities would not have been available had it not been for the strategy.

Through the assistance of the strategy the Cape York Land Council has gained a multi-skilled information professional who provides an excellent research service to staff and the Cape York Communities, and who is responsible for running the library unsupervised for two days each week.

As Cape York Land Council librarian and mentor it has been a pleasure to offer guidance, support and encouragement throughout the strategy. The traineeship was a learning process both for mentor and trainee. It is unfortunate that the strategy is to be discontinued in March, denying others valuable training. For those who may be considering participating in a mentorship program of this sort in the future, it is highly recommended.

**Simone Busch, librarian,
Cape York Land Council**



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