My name’s Georgia, I’m a Year 11 student and I’m currently studying VET Equine Studies.

I’ve always been involved with horses, almost my entire life, and I thought this would be a good way to get some qualifications for it, to start working in the industry.

So, the qualification we get after we finish this course is a Certificate II in Equine Studies. It’s definitely something I’d like to pursue in the future. I would love to work as a vet after I finish school, um, if not becoming a vet, anything with horses would be ideal.

What I love about VET is, it’s very different to your normal subjects where you’re sitting in the classroom writing down theory, whereas at VET you’re hands on, it’s practical, you apply the practical knowledge that you’ve learnt in class.

Last year in the 1 and 2 units we focused on how to do things safely and how to work around the workplace in a safe manner. We also learnt daily care, which is just how to properly handle them, and how to control them properly and feed them and wash them down and groom them. You need to be able to be stronger than the horse at times. Obviously you’re not going to be physically stronger but you need to know the proper skills to be able to control him or her, the horse, in a safe manner so nobody’s going to get hurt, the horse isn’t going to get hurt, you just know the basic control methods.

This year our practical skills have been focused on the horse’s vital signs, how to care for an injured horse, what to do when you’re waiting for a vet. Um, and now we’re getting into the skeletal system, so all like the inside of the horse, and we’re doing a lot of dissections and interesting things like that.

Last year, in the first year, we chose our electives and my two electives were riding and assisting in the preparation of a horse before an event. Um, riding, obviously we got to ride the horses and we did all sorts of things, we did general riding and we made our own games day so we got to prep the horse for the ride and warm him down and stuff like that. And then the other elective was assisting in the preparation of a horse for an event, which includes grooming, doing their mane and tail, making sure their heart rate’s good, their temperature’s good and they’re set to go so there’s no injury during an event.

Um, some of the industry experience we’ve had over the past two years of this course, we’ve gone on excursions to the racing course in Cranbourne and some saleyards over the other side of the city. The racing stable one was really good because we obviously watched them as they worked, they worked the horses, they fed the horses, they cleaned the horses. So it gives you a good idea of how everything runs in that workforce so yeah you get to watch and then you learn and you apply. In the first year I did my work placement at the Ayr Hill Equestrian Centre where I was what you would call a stable hand so I went around, I caught the horses, I brought them in, I fed them. I got to apply the knowledge that I had learnt in class in a practical way, as an employee, which was good – to be able to show someone that I had knowledge of what I was doing and what the VET course was teaching me.

Um, in VET Equine Studies there’s been a few achievements but some of the achievements I’m most proud of are how competent I have become in myself. I’m more confident that I’m safe to work around, I’m reliable, um, I don’t have to be supervised all the time. So that’s my proudest achievement but there’s plenty more. There’s so much more you can achieve in this course, that’s just one that I’m very proud of.

Leading into this program I didn’t really know what to think, I wasn’t sure what it was going to be, what theory there was going to be, what practicals there was going to be, but overall it’s really stood out, it’s been a great, fantastic course that I’ve chosen to do and I’m very happy that I have and it’s a great opportunity for young people.