I’m Gracecyn, I’m in Year 12 and I do VET Music Industry.

I wanted to do something that was music performance based because that’s what I’m really into. My family is incredibly musical so, since I was like two, I’ve been playing and singing. I wake up singing every day. It’s something I definitely want to pursue further, whether that be becoming an artist or I’m super interested in music therapy at the moment as well.

I’m studying VCE. So VCE VET Music, VCE Music, ah, Studio Arts, Food Tech and English. VCE Music is a lot more theory based. Like what music is and how to compose and how to play, and then you get a little bit of play time. But through VET Music it’s a really really practical subject, so you just play and you learn through playing and experimenting and trialling. You work on your technical skills, band skills, ah, recording skills. What you do most of the year through VET is you either choose to perform solo or you choose to perform in a band or in a group. Um, I’ve chosen to perform in a band because I love collaborating, it’s the best form of creativity, and is a great source of teamwork. You get to learn and develop new skills with other people as well and you form really good friendships as well, like, most of the best friends I’ve made here is through VET.

Currently we’re doing, ah, improvisation and stagecraft. So we’re learning about how to improvise through a song and improvise well, as well as good use of the stage, so stagecraft. When you’re improvising you’re kinda making it up on the spot, working with space in a song. Just kinda making the song your own, really. Whereas stagecraft you have planned things, things are meticulous, it’s got a purpose for why it’s there.

One of my achievements is learning how to write songs better. So actually thinking intentionally about what you’re writing and why you’re writing it, how you’re writing it, who you’re writing it with. Yeah and what the purpose of the song is. Even like musically technically, so like what’s the melody? How is it going to play? Is it, you going to play it like this, with this scale?

So through VET I’ve definitely achieved some industry-based knowledge. Like how to organise a gig or performance. And preparing for a performance. A little bit about managing, also about copyright and stuff like that.

It provides you the opportunity to do it scored or unscored, either-or. Um, but by doing the subject you’re still coming out with a Certificate III in Music Industry.

Through having a Cert III you can definitely be recognised as a more professional musician because you’ve done the work and you’ve got the accreditation for it. Ah, it gives you a leg up in, like, when you finish school you’ve actually coming out with some accreditation to you, so it means you can further just get into the industry with a bit more information and a bit more experience than maybe some of your other students who don’t do VET Music.

So since doing VET Music Industry I’ve picked up a few gigs with some of my friends here that do VET, so we sing together, we play together, also opportunities opened up at school quite a lot as well, so we perform a lot at school. We performed at a hospital with a few other schools as well, that was really cool.

Ah, my favourite part about VET Music is the people here. You meet people who get what you get. Like they’re on the same level as you. Like you have just a whole bunch of music nerds in there. Um, and then through those people you find other people who also like music as well. So it’s great for connections, great for friendships and, yeah, love it.

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