

I am grateful to have been a recipient of the Leonie Sidebottom Study Grant to accomplish the Graduate Diploma of Nursing (Emergency Stream) in 2021 through the University of Tasmania. I have always been interested in education and research-related activities. However, I would not be comfortable or confident in stepping into such programs due to my inadequate knowledge and understanding of the particular field. Even more, when I started working as a Registered Nurse, I felt the increased value of evidence-based practice, which I believe is impossible if I do not have the ability to recognise the evidence-based knowledge. Therefore, I had been thinking of undertaking further study. However, I was unsure of balancing my study, personal and professional life and my ability to commit to it. Then, I came to know about the Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards, particularly the Leonie Sidebottom Study Grant, which provided financial support for my study.

The study has not only consolidated my knowledge and skills in my professional specialty but also motivated me to take another step forward in academic learning. I am currently undertaking a Master of Clinical Nursing (Emergency Stream) and looking forward to completing it by the end of 2022. Additionally, I have also had an opportunity to undertake a grade-4 portfolio in the Clinical Coach role in the Emergency Department in the Launceston General Hospital, which was one of the objectives prior to undertaking the Graduate Diploma of Nursing and applying for this grant.

While I believe that learning is lifelong, and I feel that growing every day, both personally and professionally, academic education and research are additional ways of achieving these goals. Hence, if you are a nurse or midwife looking to achieve professional goals through education and research, I would encourage you to apply for the Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards.