Cass Ahern shares her experience of studying to be a teacher, without having to leave her family — and her dedication has paid off. Cass is now the Charleville cluster pedagogy coach for 13 schools.

Why did you choose to get involved in RATEP?
Because it allowed me to pursue being a teacher without having to leave my family and community.

How did higher education change your life?
It has allowed me to be a part of my community and make a difference to the education of the children of my community.

What were some of the positive aspects about studying through RATEP?
The convenience of studying in my community, meeting lifelong friends from other remote communities, and the supportive and caring staff.

What have you enjoyed most about the program?
Being able to achieve my goal of becoming a teacher and building friendships with the staff and other students.

What advice would you give to those thinking about it?
That it’s not easy, it requires hard work and dedication, however, the awards far outweigh the work. I get to come to work every day doing what I love because of this program.

What have been the high points in your career so far?
I love coming to work every day. I had been teaching for 18 months when I received a promotional position in my cluster as the cluster pedagogy coach for 13 schools.

Advice to others thinking of participating in RATEP?
If you are passionate about education and leaving your community for uni isn’t an option for you, than RATEP is an outstanding option to help you achieve your goal.

“I get to come to work every day doing what I love because of this program”

“RATEP is an outstanding option to help you achieve your goal”