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# SUPPORT HELPS TO FULFIL A DREAM

**V**OCATIONAL education does not just open up a broad range of careers, but offers pathways for a broad range of students.

Kushal Solanki, who is 100 per cent sight-impaired, recently finished his Certificate III in Information Digital Media at TAFE Gold Coast and has now made a start on his Diploma of IT Networking.

“I’ve been tech-savvy even from a young age,” he says. “I like working with computers and use an iPhone, so it has inspired me to do IT.”

“For the technical parts (of my studies) I have had to have assistance (but) it’s worked out pretty well.

“I was told to take a TAFE pathway because TAFE has got more support. There is a more direct communication environment.

“At uni, you either know your lecturer or you don’t but this is more of a classroom environment and what I am used to.”

Disability coach Taghan O’Sullivan has been

helping Solanki through his courses, having also studied a TAFE qualification to return to the workforce.

“I had my daughter then a year and a half off to raise her then studied education support to get back into work and it’s been great,” O’Sullivan says. “With Kushal, I read out notes, we work on assignments together, and I will get the equipment and Kushal will set it up. I’m learning along the way too.”

Solanki also uses specialised software and advice designed to assist sight impaired students.

SkillsOne chief executive Brian Wexham says there is demand for digital skills in a range of industries.

“Technology is impacting every area of business now so it’s also important to get more people into coding and programming,” he says.

“Even in agriculture, you have drones checking your dams, replacing scare crows, and managing cattle.”



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