

Mateiwai strives towards her nursing dream

The recent adverse weather failed to deter Mereti Mateiwai from pursuing her academic objective of enrolling at Fiji National University (FNU).

Mateiwai was spotted at FNU's Nasinu Campus this week with her mother undertaking academic counseling and enrolment.

The 18-year-old from Naitutu Village, Tailevu said she decided to catch the first bus from her village at 6am to ensure she reached Nasinu Campus on time for enrollment.

Mateiwai said before completing her Year 13 studies last year at Navesau Adventist High School, which is situated on the border between Wainibuka and Ra, she had made up her mind to pursue studies in nursing.

The teenager was advised to undertake the Foundation Science programme offered by the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST), which was a bridging course. After the successful completion of this programme she would be able to undertake the Bachelor of Nursing programme from next year.

"Although my marks fell a bit lower than the requirements to do the Bachelor of Nursing programme, I will still be able to pursue my dream after completing Foundation Science studies. I'm really excited to have been able to enrol at FNU. It's a start to a new journey," said Mateiwai.

"I am named after my late grandmother and she was also a nurse, so for me this is also a way I am carrying on her legacy and doing proud to our name."

"Nurses are valuable to our society because they help us keep check of our health and are also there for support in hospitals and health centres around the country."

The soft-spoken teenager said she was determined to complete the foundation programme successfully.

She added that being a boarder in high school taught her to be independent whilst also helping others in need.

Mateiwai believes these qualities would help her succeed in her tertiary studies, along with the support of her lecturers and family.

"I am used to being away from my family and coming to FNU means I will be away from my five younger brothers and parents, who will be in the village while I stay in Suva with family."

"I know that I have to be focused on my studies in order to succeed and I am confident the lecturers and tutors at FNU will assist me in my learning needs."

Mateiwai said she was also awaiting confirmation on her application for the Tertiary Education Loan Scheme (TELS).

Mother Taraivosa Tamaue said she was proud of Mateiwai's determination to achieve her dream of becoming a nurse despite the outcome of her Year 13 marks.

Tamaue said her daughter was a role model to her younger siblings and everyone in the family would help Mateiwai in her university studies in any way they could.

"We will always pray for her and try and give her whatever she needs in order to pass FNU with flying colours," Tamaue said.



Mereti Mateiwai (right) fills out forms with her mother Taraivosa Tamaue at FNU's Nasinu Campus during enrolment.