

# Harshani Jayasinghe

## *There is no goal too big*

Harshani was a finalist in the Channel 9 Young Achievers Award and the Australia Day Awards Young Citizen of the Year in 2016. She is actively pursuing a career in health and policy, aiming to improve the lives of people through health initiatives.

Harshani was born in Sri Lanka and migrated to Australia when she was 6 years of age with her mother and two brothers. The family settled in Rostrevor, where Harshani and her siblings all attended Stradbroke Primary School. Harshani has fond memories of the school, which provided her with opportunities to develop a love of reading and music, and where she made some life-long friends. She remembers the support that the local community provided to her mother when they first arrived in Australia, particularly many in the Italian community in Rostrevor, who would regularly help with English, show the family around and generously invite the family over for dinner.

Harshani was awarded a scholarship to attend St Peter's Collegiate Girl's School in 2004 where she developed her passion for science. She was awarded a Degree of Biomedical Science at the University of Adelaide and has since completed an Honours degree in Health Science focussing on risk factors of breast cancer and a Master's of Public Health, which focussed on using a game-based app to help bring about an increase to physical activity behaviour in adults.

Her first professional position was at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as its youngest ever research scientist. She coordinated the two largest randomised multi-site trials in the Respiratory Unit, investigating medications and treatments to improve the quality of life of patients suffering from emphysema. Another significant project that she worked on included an innovative website tackling smoking amongst South Australian Indigenous youth.

She has recently moved to Brisbane to commence working as an Analyst for the Health Economics and Social Policy team at Deloitte Access Economics. Here she hopes to bring about sustainable long-term changes to health and policy

**“Campbelltown has a lovely and generous community, and my family has been very fortunate to call it home.”**

Celebrating International Women's Day with the 'Women of Campbelltown' project – inspiring stories of local women, their achievements and contributions to the Community.

To see the full stories visit: [www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/iwd](http://www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/iwd)

Thank you to the women who participated and volunteer interviewers Di Booker and Katrina Spencer.