

Matilda Nicholas

'Liminal' means the transitional or the space in between of a process. In my case this process is the stage in between being a child and becoming an adult. Beehive has helped with this by pushing me but also supporting and protecting me. In many ways Beehive has helped me transition from my 'child thinking' to 'adult thinking'.

Instead of running from difficult situations, I have been encouraged to walk through them. Before coming to Beehive, I would run away from every uncomfortable situation. I would refuse to go to school and, if I did manage to get there, all I wanted to do was to leave. Every time a difficult situation presented itself, my reaction would be to avoid and escape. Beehive has taught me to sit in the feeling and keep walking through. The things that I have done now would not have been possible without the support and encouragement that I have received from the community at Beehive.

My instant response to most things had been to compare myself to other people. I would usually avoid things like team sports, public speaking and meeting new people because I was afraid of being judged. Here, I've learnt to be happy with myself rather than comparing myself to others, and that I should participate even if I thought I would fail.

Beehive has helped me to do things for myself, instead of being rescued. I was (and possibly still am) a 'classic' for leaving my work to the last minute, then getting into a panic. I would turn to my teachers or parents to fix my problem. At Beehive, I have learnt to have a different mentality about these things – to take initiative with everyday situations.

So, thank you, everyone at Beehive, for helping me navigate through everything. Thank you, Carolyn, Brendan