## **ANNEXURE C – SELF-EVALUATION REFLECTIVE REPORT**

**XHAW5112pw | Empowering the Nation**  
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### **Introduction**

The Work Integrated Learning (WIL) module connected classroom theory with practical web development experience. My team’s task was to design a professional website and Android app for *Empowering the Nation*, a Johannesburg-based SME that provides training for domestic workers and gardeners.

My role was **Lead Website Developer**, responsible for planning, coding, and deploying the full website using **HTML, CSS, and JavaScript**. The purpose of this project was to create a fully functional, mobile-first website that showcases the client’s courses and services while demonstrating our technical and teamwork skills.

### **Skills Learnt**

Throughout the project, I developed a range of technical and soft skills:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Skill** | **How I Used It** |
| **Industry-Specific** | Front-end web development (HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, Bootstrap) | Built all website pages, applied responsive design, and added JavaScript-driven features like dynamic content loading, form validation, and course filtering |
| **Interpersonal** | Team collaboration and communication | Shared daily progress updates via WhatsApp, discussed issues with teammates, and helped the Android developer align designs and data |
| **Management** | Time management and problem-solving | Planned weekly goals, used GitHub for version control, and resolved hosting and layout bugs before presentation day |

These skills directly supported the module outcomes — particularly M002 (design and develop web solutions) and M004 (reflect on employability and teamwork).

### **Role in the Team**

Our team worked remotely using **WhatsApp** for communication and **GitHub** for project management.  
 I collaborated with two teammates — one who built the Android app and another who handled presentation and design coordination.

* **My contribution:** I developed the entire website structure, coded all functionality, styled it according to the shared Figma design, and ensured it was fully responsive.
* **Teamwork:** We stayed organized and cooperative. The app developer used my HTML structure as a reference for their layout, and I ensured the website and app displayed the same course data.
* **Problem-solving:** When the app had data mismatch issues, I exported the website’s course data into a shared format (JSON), which fixed the syncing problem quickly and kept both platforms consistent.

### **Research, Technology and Presentation of Information**

**Research Sources:**  
 I referred to the *IIE WIL Manual*, the official client brief, *MDN Web Docs*, *W3Schools*, and *Stack Overflow* for JavaScript syntax, form validation, and responsive design techniques.

**Technology Used:**

* **Development Tools:** Visual Studio Code, GitHub Pages (for live hosting and version control)
* **Design Tools:** Figma for layout reference, Canva for image editing
* **Testing Tools:** Chrome DevTools for responsiveness and console debugging

**Presentation:**  
 The website was presented live during our final session. I demonstrated course browsing, dynamic fee calculations, and real-time form validation. The site’s layout was simple, modern, and optimized for mobile users.

### **Personal Strengths and Weaknesses**

**Top 5 Strengths**

1. Developed a fully functional and responsive website with advanced JavaScript features
2. Solved complex front-end logic problems (form validation, course filtering, live updates)
3. Maintained consistent progress and met all deadlines
4. Worked efficiently in a remote team and supported others when needed
5. Successfully deployed the website online and ensured it was accessible via GitHub Pages

**Top 5 Weaknesses**

1. JavaScript code had very few comments, making it harder to maintain or explain to others
2. Minor design flaw — certain elements (like buttons and text spacing) were not consistent across all screen sizes
3. Limited documentation — no written user or technical guide included
4. Slightly large image files affected loading speed
5. Could have added more UI polish such as hover animations or micro-interactions

**Reasons and Improvements:**  
 Most weaknesses occurred due to time management and focus on ensuring functionality before aesthetics. To improve, I plan to add **code comments**, perform **design reviews earlier**, and use **Lighthouse audits** for optimization feedback before final deployment.

### **Stakeholder Relationship**

**What worked well:**

* The WIL coordinator and lecturer commented that our team **showed noticeable improvement after every feedback session**, especially in layout quality, responsiveness, and teamwork.
* We built a strong working relationship where everyone supported each other’s tasks, and my website became the **main digital foundation** for the app and presentation.
* The stakeholder also appreciated our **professional attitude** and how we handled constructive feedback effectively.

**What didn’t:**

* At times, our team focused more on visual design than on user experience, which caused some minor usability issues (for example, too many menu options on smaller screens).
* We also didn’t test the website with actual end users, so some layout decisions were based on assumption rather than real feedback.

**How to improve:**  
 In future projects, I would organize **basic user testing sessions** and **collect short surveys** from potential users to confirm that the layout and navigation work as intended. This would help balance both the visual design and the real user experience.

### **Impact**

**Team Impact:**  
 My website became the **central piece** of the project, guiding the design style for the Android app and presentation. The team collaborated effectively, and everyone’s work aligned well because we shared a clear visual direction from the start.

**External Impact:**  
 The final website gives *Empowering the Nation* a professional online presence that can help attract more learners and partners. The lecturer noted that the website and app looked **well-integrated and polished**, showing that our group grew in both technical skill and design understanding throughout the module.

**Challenges:**  
 One challenge was maintaining consistent branding between the app and website since we were working separately on different platforms. However, through communication and design sharing, we achieved a cohesive final product — a valuable lesson in coordination and consistency across multiple technologies.

### **Conclusion**

This WIL project was a turning point in my development as a web professional. It pushed me to apply my technical skills, solve real challenges, and collaborate effectively under pressure.  
 I learned how to transform a concept into a live, working product and gained confidence in handling front-end logic, design alignment, and deployment. Although there were small design flaws and a lack of JavaScript documentation, the project proved my ability to **plan, code, test, and deliver a professional website**.  
 Overall, this experience prepared me to enter the industry as a capable and confident front-end web developer.