

INFORMATION ON GIRLS IN TRADES



Women currently make up only 13% of trade apprentices and trainees in NSW, with most women opting to pursue apprenticeships in areas such as hairdressing and beauty therapy.

Less than 2% of automotive, construction and electro-technology trade workers in NSW are female.

The good news is that Australian women are entering male-dominated trades. In 2011 there were:

- 1,432 female electricians
- 676 female carpenters
- 931 female motor mechanics
- 638 female plumbers.

Increasing the number of women in trades

The NSW Government is committed to increasing the number of women and girls working in non-traditional trades.

A non-traditional trade is one where women represent less than 25% of workers in that occupation.

Some examples of non-traditional trades where women are under-represented include chefs (17%), electricians (2%), mechanics (less than 1%) and plumbers (less than 1%).

These trades are all identified in NSW as experiencing a skill shortage. This means there are less qualified tradespeople in these areas than the number of available jobs. For people with these skills, it can mean above award wages and job opportunities across Australia.



WOMEN IN TRADES

Women NSW is developing strategies to encourage women and girls to undertake and complete training in trades and to maintain employment as a tradesperson into the future.

These strategies include working with employers to encourage them to employ girls and women as well as provide them with safe and supportive workplaces.



www.women.nsw.gov.au

Why choose a trade?

The right trade will provide you with lifelong skills. A trade career can offer you advantages such as:

- earning a good income
- travelling interstate and abroad
- job security
- career development.

As a trade apprentice, you will earn while you learn!

Is a trade right for you?

Do you enjoy:

- practical, hands-on activities
- problem solving
- physical activities
- being in a team
- lots of variety or
- creating and making things?

Then you might want to consider a career in trade.

Exploring trades

There are many ways in which you can explore trades while still at school, including:

- attending career expos and information days
- visiting Mum or Dad's worksite
- studying a Vocational Education and Training (VET) or TAFE delivered HSC VET (TVET) course as part of the School Certificate or Higher School Certificate
- undertaking learning opportunities such as work experience or a work placement in a non-traditional trade
- enrolling in a pre-apprenticeship course or starting an apprenticeship or school-based apprenticeship (you can combine school with paid employment and TAFE)
- trying a TAFE taster course.

Drop in and discuss your interest in a trade career with your Careers Adviser. They have loads of information and are there to help.

Useful links

For more information on Girls in Trades and the Women in Trades initiative:

www.women.nsw.gov.au/women_and_work/women_in_trades

For more information on VET and TVET courses:

www.det.nsw.edu.au/vetinschools

For more information on work experience or work placement:

www.workplacement.nsw.edu.au/

For more information on apprenticeships:

www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

For more information on school-based apprenticeships:

www.sbatinnsw.info/apprenticeships.php

For more information on TAFE and taster courses:

www.tafensw.edu.au

