

WORKING FORWARD

STORIES OF WOMEN IN CAREERS IN TRADES

Career Pathways for Women and Girls:

Emergent & Non-traditional Occupations and Industries [Viable Work]

DI

Sign writer, Painter and Decorator

I am a trade qualified painter and decorator and 3rd Year Sign writer. I was 42 on trade entry and have worked the past 8 years in these fields.

I have always had an interest in painting and I joined the Work Opportunities for Women course in Painting and decorating at TAFE. We did murals, decorative effects, interior design and colour consultancy. By the end of the 6 months I had decided I wanted to do the trade course, so I went on to complete this course. I obtained my license and I am self-employed.

This trade has suited me but women have to have a desire to do this work, and understand

what's involved in any chosen trade.

I enjoy and have a passion for what I do. I have met many people. It is great to get paid to do something I enjoy. I do come across negative attitudes though because I am female.

And this is a really physical job which is why I think it would have been good to have gotten into this business earlier.

We need to let girls in school know of these opportunities and give them hands on experience It would be good to have School Career days and have women in trades attend. I think carpentry, cabinet making, being a French polisher would suit many women.



SALT – Supporting & Linking Tradeswomen assisted WAVE to examine critical factors to promote more women having successful careers in trades areas – this is Di's story.

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