

WORKING FORWARD

STORIES OF WOMEN WITH CAREERS IN TRADES

Career Pathways for Women and Girls:

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

JACQUIE

Painter and Decorator

I have been a painter and decorator for the past 10 years entering as a 38 year old. I mix self-employment with contract work. I entered this field via a Work Opportunities for Women course at Wollongong TAFE. I was always interested in this work as my mother was a fantastic painter and decorator and I was always encouraged to lend a hand. I found I enjoyed being creative and being able to make a change to the projects I was working on. Personally I have been encouraged as a woman in a trade and had great feedback on my work .. but once I have proved I am capable!! I have a

great woman mentor who has been a fantastic inspiration. As long as I keep my qualifications up to date and have the same drive to do well, I will continue to do this line of work.

However women need to have equal opportunities, support and encouragement at work.

Girls might consider trades if there was media involvement and advertisements so they know these jobs are options for them. Of course, the military forces have had the drive to encourage females – it's all about equal!! It's a challenge!!! My experiences as a woman in a male dominated trade can help other women in other industries too such as in engineering and aircraft mechanics.



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

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