

WORKING FORWARD

STORIES OF WOMEN WITH CAREERS IN TRADES

Career Pathways for Women and Girls:

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

LORRAINE

Painter and Decorator

I became a painter and decorator, interior stylist and colour consultant at 42 years of age and have been in business for 14 years I completed a Work Opportunities for Women course at Wollongong TAFE. This program was useful and allowed me to reinvent my work skills from hospitality to painting and decorating and it gave me the opportunity to meet women who I later worked with in the industry My teacher encouraged me to continue onto the trade and to complete it, offering apprenticeship and support. I still have concerns as to whether I am capable to do work alone but my women clients feel

comfortable having another woman in their homes, and they encourage their friends to hire a woman as they feel safer. Women deserve to work in any trade. I believe a woman can raise the expectations of a job well done and done well. Women improve the mentality of men thinking they are better. But we do need more women teaching in their trades and mentoring other women. Careers advisors at school also need to encourage women in trades to talk to girls. As a woman being the parent of a disabled child and who works part time we should not feel any less qualified. I work part time hours because my first priority is the care of my child. This should not be the measure of my the skills and experience.



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

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