

WORKING FORWARD

STORIES OF WOMEN WITH CAREERS IN TRADES

Career Pathways for Women and Girls:

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

FRED

Fitter and Machinist

I became a fitter and machinist at 22 years of age after completing my Diploma of Mechanical Engineering and have worked for 12 years so far.

I fought to do metalwork at school as I wasn't encouraged to do it - 'women don't do that trade'. I have 3 sisters. I sort

of became the 'son' in my family and metal work was what I was interested in - making things that move etc.

It was better than cooking!

I love my work, but not the attitude of other people around me. Women shouldn't need to prove ourselves each day when fully qualified. There is a lack of respect from fellow workers.

If you are not careful you are put aside when applying for jobs – that's why I use 'Fred' as a work name. I want to go further and run a workshop but want to feel as though my input is important.

When women are not being

recognised as capable it is a missed opportunity for everyone.

More information is needed

***You cut a pattern,
you put it together,
then you fit it –
this describes sewing..
and metalwork.***

at school to give girls better choices. I do school talks and have discussed the pro's and con's of my job with them.

I always recommend my trade to girls - but I let them know that it will be a challenge

All industries would benefit from women's contributions. Everyone notices different things at work - male and female.



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

This project is funded by economic Security 4 Women 2011

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