

THE FAIRER SEX DESERVES A FAIR GO

More women in trades does more than just help the economy.

WOMEN are encouraged to consider pursuing a trades career this National Skills Week.

Employers battling an increasing skills shortage that are unable to find the workers from their usual pool of talent also are encouraged to take on female apprentices or trainees.

Apprenticeship Support Australia claims higher female participation in trade industries will not only help Australia's economy and combat a growing skills shortages but will also create opportunities for women to access solutions to the unique economic challenges they face.

General manager Peter Gilchrist believes women who complete an apprenticeship or traineeship can reap a range of economic and social rewards, and that increased female participation in the workforce provides additional economic and social benefits to families, communities and businesses. He started his career in trades and stresses the value and positive effect women can bring into the industry.

"When I started as a fitter machinist apprentice, women participating in trades were very academically focused and progressed their career quickly," he says. "While it's great to see the number of women in trades increase since, the growth has been slow and needs stronger support to reach the level that it needs to be at."

Women are being encouraged to pursue non-traditional female trades in which women make up



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fewer than 25 per cent of all apprentices and workers. They include roles in the automotive, building and construction, butchery, horticulture, electrical, carpentry and plumbing industries. Those unsure about

women working in trades have many reasons to consider it. Those benefits range from improved performance for organisations, to increased resilience provided by more diverse perspectives, that allow for a range

of solutions when problem solving. Workplace mental health has also been shown to improve. To contact Apprenticeship Support Australia, call 1300 363 831, email info@apprenticeshipsupport.com.au or visit apprenticeshipsupport.com.au

DID YOU KNOW?

- 61,085 females started an apprenticeship or traineeship in 2020
- 36 per cent of all new apprentices and trainees in 2020 were female
- 70 per cent of females who finished training in 2019 were employed
- 13 per cent of females completing vocational education pursued a trade

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research



real skills for real careers

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