

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Good News Stories – Women in Construction

RECLINK AUSTRALIA

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| Delivery Location: | Logan |
| Funded Program: | Work Skills Traineeships |
| Project Name: | Linking Employment Pathways Logan |
| APP ID: | SE06853 |
| Courses: | Certificate I in Construction Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management |
| Target Assist: | 44 disadvantaged job seekers |
| Completion Date: | November 2022 |

Reclink delivered a Work Skills Traineeships project employing 41 disadvantaged job seekers for 20 weeks, including people seeking a career change due to COVID-19. Trainees undertook renovation and revitalization works at community facilities and environmental corridors, to improve access and functionality. Trainees completed either the Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management (CAEM) or the Certificate I in Construction, with additional training in First Aid and general construction induction training card.

In partnership with Logan City Council, CAEM activities included the removal of noxious and invasive weeds, riparian planting, plant establishment, improving deteriorating native bushland, native plant identification, flood mitigation, erosion control, invasive species management, habitat restoration, planting for ecological restoration, chemical safety, and vertebrate pest monitoring.

Construction activities involved the maintenance and upgrade of existing facilities at the Mustangs Brothers Rugby Leagues Club in Chambers Flat. This included carpentry re-fit of the existing gymnasium, new fencing around grounds, painting and concreting. Trainees benefited from project tasks that included site risk assessment and planning, care of work site, and use of equipment to maintain a public space. Tailored support for all trainees included, individual case management, foundation skills, on-the-job activities, LLN assistance, job search, life skills, specialist services referrals, personal protective equipment, and ongoing post participation support.

The project ended in November 2022 - 41 trainees employed on the project, 36 (88%) completed and 29 (71%) gained ongoing employment.

Participant Profile:

Kathleen, a 52-year-old, spent many years caring for her husband who has multiple sclerosis. She always had a passion and keen interest in construction, working on DIY projects at home and growing up in a family that worked in the industry. Kathleen thought it was time to focus on herself, seeking a new challenge she joined the project not knowing what to expect but hoping to gain a nationally recognised qualification. She had some significant mental health challenges but with support and no judgement of her traumatic past, she was able to engage completely on the project and what it had to offer. Kathleen already had a background in admin and project planning and was determined to gain a position where the two worlds came together.

Achieving her goal, Kathleen successfully completed the qualification and was very excited to accept an Assistant Contract Administrator position with PBS Building.



(SQW consent confirmed)

MEGT (AUSTRALIA) LTD

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| Delivery Location: | Chermside |
| Funded Program: | Work Skills Traineeships |
| Project Name: | I Got Brushed III |
| APP ID: | MT07005 |
| Target Assist: | 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples |
| Course: | Certificate I in Construction |
| Completion Date: | November 2022 |

MEGT (Australia) Ltd delivered a Works Skills Traineeships project employing 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to paint and upgrade homes owned by The Black Community Housing Service (Qld) in Brisbane and to transition into employment within the construction industry. Trainees completed 18 weeks of paid work placement and completed the Certificate I in Construction, with additional training offered in Working Safely at Heights, Asbestos Awareness, Fit Testing, Green Skills, and First Aid. Work activities included preparing surfaces, sanding, bogging holes, repairing palings, fixing window putty, cutting in and painting, erecting trestles and planks, using painting equipment, using hand tools, cleaning work sites, and undertaking minor works. Wrap around support included language, literacy and numeracy assistance, case management, counselling, Indigenous mentoring, specialist services referral, employability skills, life skills, guest speakers, learner driver assistance, travel assistance, job search and ongoing post participation support.

The project ended in February 2023 – 13 trainees employed, 12 (92%) successfully completed and 8 (61%) gained employment.

Participant Profile:

Cheyenne, a 23-year-old Indigenous woman, was long-term unemployed and wanted to focus on getting her life back on track. She loves painting but never thought she could find a job by following her passion. Throughout the traineeship, Cheyenne developed her confidence and leadership and mentoring skills by passing on new techniques to the other trainees, answering their questions and encouraging the team to stay motivated. Cheyenne was a standout on the project, a hard worker who was committed to her training and contributed to toolbox meetings. The onsite supervisor stated her attendance was outstanding and her attention to detail and mature approach to work was impressive. MEGT was so amazed by Cheyenne's work ethics that they nominated her for the 2023 Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year Award. Cheyenne was a regional finalist for the Metropolitan region.

Cheyenne successfully completed the Certificate I in Construction and has also secured a full-time painting apprenticeship with Wright Way



SQW consent confirmed

Cheyenne said, *“The program really opened my eyes to the opportunities available for people like me to find their passion and drive. Getting the Certificate, has been a huge achievement for myself, being a girl doing something like that in a male industry, I feel extremely empowered and stronger, both physically and mentally than I did before. I am very proud of myself, I completed a Certificate, and have now commenced a full-time job as an apprentice painter. I am excited to see where my life takes me and what opportunities are opened from taking the big step and saying ‘YES’”.*