

MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASED: FRIDAY 30 MAY 2014

TRADEUP FOR PRACTICAL SKILLS AT FREE DIY WORKSHOPS FOR WOMEN

TradeUP Australia is a new Western Australia based not-for-profit organisation working with industry and the wider community to introduce skilled trades as a viable career option to women.

With the support of Men's Shed Association, TradeUP Australia holds regular hand and power tool workshops for women, run by trade-qualified facilitators. Participants are introduced to a range of hand and power tools and use them to complete a small woodworking project.

"These free DIY workshops give women an engaging experience of what it would be like to work in a trade," says Founder and Director of TradeUP Australia, Sarah Jayne Flatters.

TradeUP Australia has hosted three workshops this year and plans to run them monthly. "The response has been overwhelming," says Sarah Jayne. "Our last workshop received over 130 booking requests".

There are 1.43 million skilled tradespeople in Australia but only 2 per cent of them are women.

"The main thing stopping women from considering becoming a tradie is a lack of exposure to what the work actually involves and under-confidence with performing practical tasks," says Sarah Jayne.

Through these workshops, TradeUP Australia hopes to help more women to gain practical independence. "We welcome all women to participate in our workshops, whether they are considering a trade, or just hoping to gain some basic practical skills using hand and power tools."

TradeUP Australia is actively looking for industry and community support to continue implementing its initiatives. If you or your organisation is interested in knowing more, please contact sarah@tradeupaustralia.com.au.

DIY Workshops for Women are scheduled for 14 June, 5 July, and 9 August 2014. To attend, contact sarah@tradeupaustralia.com.au or visit www.tradeupaustralia.com.au.

Sarah Jayne is a 25 year old licensed electrician and EnergySafety 2013 Apprentice of the Year.

Media enquiries can be directed to Mary McCartney tradeupcomms@gmail.com.