



Name: Sarah A

Apprenticeship: Certificate III Automotive Light Vehicle
Completed CITI New Recruits Program In: 2014

"I have always had a passion to fix things but never knew how to apply it into life," said Sarah, an automotive apprentice at Lance Dixon Motors in Melbourne.

Today, Sarah is applying that passion to a career in automotive mechanics. Now in her second year of the apprenticeship, she is working to complete Certificates III and IV.

Sarah's interest in car repair started in high school. "I was once helping a friend work on his car and decided to do some study on it during my high school VCE." In Year 10, she began to pursue her interest through TAFE.

Sarah's teachers were encouraging, but her career choice came as a surprise to many. "At the start, family and friends were unsure that I would like to work on cars or even that I would be able to do so," Sarah said. "It wasn't until I started to apply for jobs that people took me seriously. I had a hard time in high school

and was determined to prove everyone wrong."

Once Sarah finished high school, she was ready to pursue her passion for mechanics and looked at many options. It was a school to work program that caught her interest and gave her the opportunity. She signed up and then went on to complete the Citi New Recruits job readiness program which enabled her to secure the apprenticeship with Lance Dixon Motors. "On finishing school, and with the soft skills I learnt through the New Recruits program, I found it very easy to find an apprenticeship thanks to Skilling Australian Foundation" she said.

In the service centre at Lance Dixon, Sarah gains new experience and knowledge of her field every day. As customers come in, the automotive technicians are assigned various diagnostic and repair jobs. For Sarah, determination and concentration are

key skills. "If you are not determined in your job, you will not succeed in troubleshooting the error of the car. If you are not concentrating, you could potentially add to the original problem," she explained.

When she completes her apprenticeship, Sarah plans to keep expanding her knowledge of cars. "Maybe learn some other aspects of the industry, such as in panel beating or auto electrics," she said. "Who knows, I might even travel around Australia and pick up some more knowledge through other experiences."

To other young people starting out in their careers, Sarah advises, "Don't listen to what people are telling you. Listen to what you enjoy, the things that make you happy, and find a job that you think would fulfil that joy. Don't give up because when you give up, you may miss life changing opportunities."

For further information please contact:
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