



Name: Alicia

Completed Citi New Recruits Phase I

Employer: Precision Metal Group Pty Ltd

Qualification: BSB30112 Certificate III Business

Alicia Doolan, from Liverpool NSW found that university was not for her. With limited work experience, the young mum thought her best bet would be to earn a qualification which would lead her to a secure job afterwards.

"I quickly came to realise that the best way for me to gain any kind of experience, particularly after two years out of the workforce after having my daughter, was to commence a traineeship," the now 21-year old from Bonnyrigg said.

She wanted to gain experience as soon as possible and decided a Business traineeship through TAFE would give her the opportunity not only to gain practical skills straight away but to also earn an income.

It was then Alicia came across the Citi New Recruit's Program which develops the employment skills of young people experiencing disadvantage. Funded by the Citi Foundation the program is run by Skilling Australia Foundation. Alicia commenced the intensive job-ready program in 2013, during which she learnt a range of employability skills, such as teamwork and leadership increasing her chance of being placed into a business traineeship.

Alicia said she thoroughly enjoyed participating in the program, saying it gave her the skills and confidence she needed to be successful in her chosen field. "The Citi New Recruits program was my stepping stone and my opportunity to finally kick-start a career in my desired field," she said adding, "if I did not participate in this program there is a chance I may not be where I am today."

The statistics speak for themselves. A recent report shows Australia is still a long way from gender parity when it comes to the number of females as apprentices or trainees as compared to males. Of the 192,000 Australians who commenced training as an apprentice or trainee in 2014, just 38 per cent were women.

But like other young women Alicia is helping to buck the trend. She now works full-time in a very rewarding and dynamic role at Precision Metal Group. She completed a business traineeship during a placement with Precision Metal Group, Wetherill Park and a Certificate IV in Business.

As a result of her hard work and dedication Alicia was recently awarded the Skilling Australia Foundation Award for outstanding achievement. She was

also previously recognised at the 2015 Western Sydney Regional Training Awards winning the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award for her achievements as a business trainee in vocational training and education.

"My first reaction when it was announced I had won the Skilling Australia Foundation award was excitement and shock – I was not expecting it at all," Alicia said.

She said overall she was honoured and proud to accept the award. "Skilling Australia Foundation and the Citi New Recruits program do a fantastic job in providing us young Australians with opportunities to gain the training and skills necessary to pursue a successful career," Alicia said.

Alicia encourages other young women to get out there like she did. Given the right support and the right skills, "as a single mother, you can still strive for, and achieve, your career and training goals," Alicia said.

For further information please contact:
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