



Name: Robbie

**Apprenticeship: Certificate III Automotive Light Vehicle
Completed Citi New Recruits Phase II**

Robbie always knew that the classroom wasn't for him. He wanted to start a career in something practical, rather than being stuck behind a desk with pen and paper. As an apprentice with Mantello Nissan in Roxburgh Park, Victoria, Robbie has finally found the career training and experience he was looking for.

After leaving school at age 14, Robbie tried an apprenticeship in carpentry. Although he liked working with his hands, the apprenticeship lacked the support and structure Robbie needed to learn the trade. It didn't work out, and Robbie found himself floundering.

That's when a friend who worked for another Nissan dealership suggested he try an apprenticeship in mechanics. Robbie enjoyed working on cars at home on the weekends and often helped friends with car repairs, so mechanics was the perfect fit. He completed the Citi New Recruits program in 2014, where he learned career skills that gave him the confidence to pursue a full-time apprenticeship.

Robbie liked the work experience aspect of the Citi New Recruits program because it gave him the chance to show his employer who he really was. "I wanted to try my hardest to get that job," Robbie said.

Now in his second year at the dealership, Robbie is well on the way to earning his Certificate III in light vehicle mechanics. On a given day, he is busy working on repairs, learning and maintaining tools, cleaning the workshop, or breaking down turbo engines with a colleague and testing his knowledge of the parts.

Robbie appreciates the employer support and guidance at the dealership. They were important factors in his decision to pursue the apprenticeship with Nissan.

"The fact that it was a dealership meant that everything was getting done the way it should be," Robbie said. Knowing that security, protocol, and safety are all in place, he could focus on learning, working, and improving his skills.

There are other perks as well. Recently, Robbie arranged to purchase a traded-in Subaru through the dealership. Having a "grown-up car," Robbie said, allows him to be more independent and have "a bit of freedom."

If he hadn't pursued the apprenticeship, Robbie imagines he would have "ended up working in warehousing, which is just a job, not a career," he explained.

"I feel like I have a future," Robbie said. "It's good to have a future in something you like doing."

For anyone choosing a career or apprenticeship, Robbie's advice is: "If you feel like you should be doing it, go ahead and do it. Don't wait around. Give it a shot. If you don't like it, try something else. No point in sitting around else."

**For further information please contact:
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