

MEDIA RELEASE



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MBA ACT Calls on More Women to Take up a Trade Amid Women's History Month Celebrations

Master Builders ACT is calling on more women to join the building and construction industry ahead of ongoing celebrations for Women's History Month. This year will be the MBA's fifth year running the SPARK JobTrainer Women in Civil Program, in collaboration with Ginninderry and today will be celebrating International Women's Day with a luncheon featuring prominent Canberran, Erin Molan.

Master Builders ACT CEO Michael Hopkins said, "International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate the incredible women in the building and construction industry and a chance to think about what practical steps employers can take to employ more women in our industry."

"Women currently represent only two percent of the construction workforce who are on the tools and increasing this representation is key to unlocking the workforce shortages in our industry", said Mr Hopkins.

Mr Hopkins said, "With a majority female senior leadership team, female past-President, and board comprising female industry leaders, Master Builders ACT is a visible example that women have a place in the boardrooms and senior positions of local building organisations."

Master Builders ACT Member Services Director, Ashlee Berry, said, "We want women to know that opportunities for prosperous and rewarding careers are available to them in the construction industry. Our Women in Construction events are a great opportunity to champion powerful women in male dominated fields and to find out how we can break down the roadblocks between women and construction careers," Ms Berry explained.

Ms Berry said, "We are currently working with Ginninderry, Kane Constructions and Hands Across Canberra to deliver the Strathnairn Charity House which is a house predominately built, designed and sold by women for charities that support women."

"The female construction team was led by Jo Farrell from Kane Constructions. Jo was recently awarded the MBA ACT Construction Woman of the Year and is the founder of Build Like a Girl. Jo is a great example of the outstanding women working in the ACT construction industry," Ms Berry said.

Master Builders ACT Training Director, Jo Whitfield, said "We want to use the MBA's industry leading women in construction programs as means of promoting the opportunities available to women in construction. I encourage all women considering a career in construction to come along to one of our program information sessions, such as the Women in Civil Information Session on the 4th of April or the MBA Carpentry careers evening on the 18th of May."

Ms Whitfield concluded, "We always have room in our industry for hardworking and determined individuals, regardless of gender, so I encourage all women to seriously consider a career in the local building and construction industry."

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