

MEDIA RELEASE

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Funding for women in construction a welcome boost

Master Builders ACT has today welcomed confirmation that the ACT Government will invest \$1.4 million over four years to expand its *Women in Construction – Try-a-Trade* program, aimed at boosting female participation in construction careers.

Anna Neelagama, CEO of Master Builders ACT, said “Master Builders is all for any initiative to attract more young women to building and construction. Diversifying the workforce is essential to addressing our ongoing builder and trade shortages.”

“We know there is a chronic skills shortage across every single trade in the ACT and nationwide. Currently, women make up just 13.6 per cent of Australia’s construction industry workforce, and only 3.7 per cent of them are ‘on the tools’.”

“We know that the number of people joining the industry each year is not enough to keep up with demand. There are overall significantly less young people taking up apprenticeships in building and construction, and to reverse this we need to do more to promote the value of Australian apprenticeship pathways to young people.”

“We need to give young women access to unbiased careers education and information. We also need to remove the bias towards higher education so that young women have the same opportunities to pursue trade apprenticeships as their male counterparts.”

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Authorised by Anna Neelagama on behalf of Master Builders Association of the ACT.

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