

MEDIA RELEASE

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Female maintenance apprentices conquer stereotypes

Sydney Trains Chief Executive Howard Collins today announced Sydney Trains has recruited a record number of female maintenance apprentices, with five women starting their career in this traditionally male dominated field.

“Today is International Women’s Day and what better time to announce that our maintenance team has taken on five female apprentices,” said Mr Collins.

“Sydney Trains is committed to ensuring a broader gender representation in these crucial roles, so we’ve been actively targeting females in our apprenticeship recruitment drive.

“The new apprentices will be working across four disciplines, including telecommunications, electrical distribution, signal electrics and overhead wiring.

“They’ll be learning from the best, working with some of the most experienced rail maintenance specialists in Australia.”

The five apprentices include Nina Long from Green Valley, Francesca O’Connor from Balmain, Natasha Bishop from Merrylands, Rebecca Roberts from Carey Bay and Shesha Maheshwari from Blacktown.

Rebecca, a former grocery store manager, said she applied for an apprenticeship to get into the electrical trade and for Sydney Trains’ strong career development prospects.

“Maintenance is still quite blokey, I think it’s great that Sydney Trains is encouraging more females to enter the trade,” said Rebecca.

“Women bring a different perspective and I think greater diversity is a positive step.”

Mr Collins said with more than 1400 applicants for this year’s maintenance apprentice intake and only 39 positions, the process is highly competitive.

“We have a tough application and testing process in place to ensure we get the best of the best to look after our rail network,” he said.

This year’s intake not only includes the largest number of women ever, but is the highest intake overall of any rail operator in Australia. The 39 apprentices come from a variety of locations and backgrounds, and range in age from late teens through to late 40s.

After completing their four years, apprentices are then graded and have the opportunity to apply for full-time positions with Sydney Trains.

The 2017 maintenance apprentice intake will be advertised on jobs.nsw.gov.au in July.

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