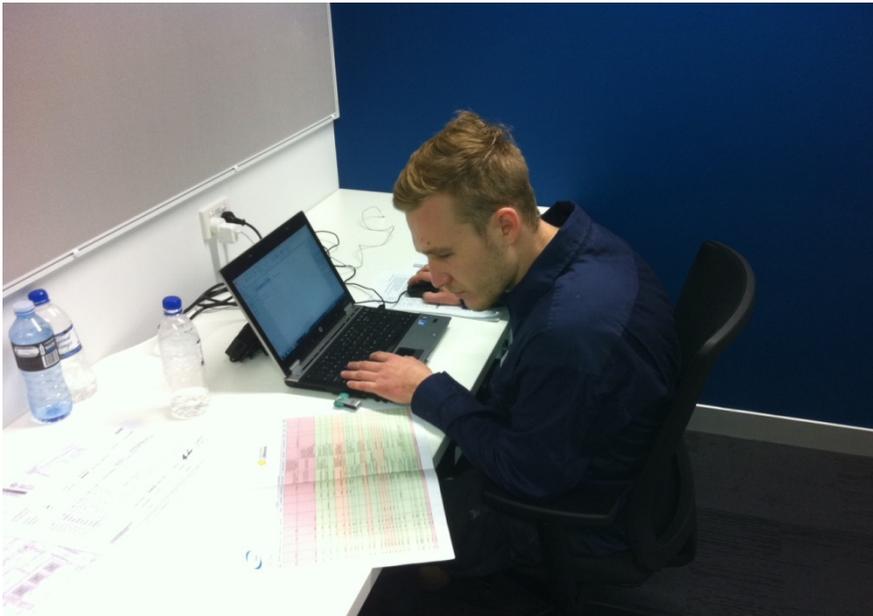


## Alex Goodman – Apprentice Carpenter

NSW Apprenticeships Ambassador Program – Apprentice and Trainee Career Profiles



Alex Goodman, Apprentice Carpenter tracks the progress of construction activities

**Current role:** 4th year apprentice carpenter. I am currently managing post completion works at Charles Perkins Centre and Lifehouse RPA.

**Age:** I'm 21.

### What got you this role?

I started my apprenticeship with Multiplex after finishing year 12. I was on the tools for about three years of my apprenticeship and have worked my way into supervision, as that was initially the company's plan for me.

### Formal qualifications:

I have completed 3 ½ years out of the 4 years of my apprenticeship. Once I have completed the full 4 years I will be eligible to be signed off as a qualified carpenter. I have completed all the theory based learning at TAFE and the remaining modules are onsite.

### What did you want to do when you grew up?

I had always had a big interest in working with timber and building in general. I started timber technology and construction at school which I enjoyed a lot. This made me think more about construction as a future career and because of that I was open to opportunities in commercial construction.

### Best school time memory?

School in general is a great memory for me. I would do anything for that carefree lifestyle of being young and being able to be with your best friends for most of the day and have minimal responsibility. Six weeks of summer holidays are a great memory.

### About this trade

- Carpenters construct, erect, install, finish and repair wooden and metal structures and fixtures on residential and commercial buildings.
- The role suits people who are physically fit, enjoy practical, outdoor work and are able to work well in teams.
- With further training and experience, a carpenter can become a building supervisor, building or construction manager, building inspector, technical teacher, estimator, building contract administrator or purchasing officer.

### A snapshot of this apprenticeship

- At Brookfield Multiplex successful candidates receive on-the-job training and the opportunity to obtain a Certificate III in Carpentry.
- Apprentices are rotated through a variety of locations and roles and are provided with safety gear and tools to work with.
- The apprenticeship usually takes four years to complete but may be completed earlier when the apprentice has completed the qualification.

### Interested?

You can learn more about this apprenticeship by searching the web at:

- State Training Services
- Brookfield Multiplex
- Construction & Property Services Skills Council
- myfuture
- Job Outlook

### **Work/life so far?**

I guess I am balancing my work/life pretty well. But I am interested to see how that will change when my work load increases as I move up in the company. I am still young in the company and my responsibilities are minimal compared to other employees higher up as I am still learning.

**Career bumps so far?** None as yet.

### **Who are your career development supporters?**

Brookfield Multiplex has an Apprentice Master in place to provide support for my career development. He is regularly onsite and can be contacted for any questions. I also found other employees onsite take interest in the development of young apprentices and found them a big support in the development of my career. They are always there to answer any questions I have and go out of their way to help improve my education on building.

### **Current job description:**

I am currently managing defects at previously built jobs. As part of the building contract we are to provide an employee to manage defects throughout the building for 12 months. I am working towards the position of a site supervisor. A site supervisor coordinates the works of trades in an area in the most effective way. Site supervision also includes safety and lots of troubleshooting.

### **Strangest thing you've had to do?**

I can't recall anything strange I have had to do at work.

### **Your strengths?**

I believe I can communicate well with others and work efficiently and well on the tools.

### **Your weaknesses?**

I believe my organisation and multitasking skills are my weakest attributes when it comes to supervision but I have only started trying to better these attributes and these skills are improving quickly I think.

### **The best part of your work?**

Seeing the building from start to finish is very rewarding. Seeing progression in the area you are looking after is also definitely another main reason that keeps me motivated. I can't forget banter and mateship. It's always fun carrying on at work and makes the day go faster and makes work more enjoyable. I have also met some good mates through work which makes work very enjoyable.

### **The worst part of your work?**

Answering to bosses is one of the worst parts of my job. Also my responsibilities are always increasing therefore the hours I work are getting longer and I can see myself getting caught up in just working too much.

### **Your greatest mentor/inspiration?**

I worked with a young supervisor who moved very quickly through his apprenticeship and developed into a supervisor very quickly and is still moving very quickly through the ranks today. He is a massive inspiration as I hope to do the same.

### **What job do you most crave?**

I love being on a job from the beginning to finish as you see its progression and the work that is involved. The structure stage of the job is always fun as everything progresses very quickly. This makes the job very satisfying and motivating.

### **Your work motto?**

I have never really thought about a work motto though when work gets intense or I am planning a holiday I always say to myself "work to live not live to work".

### **Where will you be in 15 years' time?**

Hopefully I am a competent General Foreman or Site Manager.

## **Steps to starting an apprenticeship**

To make informed career decisions you'll need to know:

- The range of apprenticeships and traineeships available.
- Where to search for an apprenticeship or traineeship vacancy.
- How you start and successfully complete an apprenticeship or traineeship.
- Who can help and the types of assistance available to you.

***For information on Apprenticeships and Traineeships visit***

***[www.training.nsw.gov.au](http://www.training.nsw.gov.au)***

### **Apprenticeships and traineeships:**

- Are a great way to start a career or change career direction.
- Consist of structured off the job training which compliments the on the job training in the workplace.
- One of the best ways to get job training and qualifications.
- Are highly regarded by business and industry.
- Are nationally recognised.
- Can be full time or part time or school based.
- Are regulated by State Governments to ensure fairness and compliance with all state laws.
- Are competency based so they are completed when the apprentice or trainee has achieved the relevant qualification and competencies to industry standards.

***This profile is an initiative of the NSW Apprenticeships Ambassador Program 2014.***

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***[www.training.nsw.gov.au](http://www.training.nsw.gov.au)***