

Shane Hearne – Power Distribution Apprentice

NSW Apprenticeships Ambassador Program – Apprentice and Trainee Career Profiles



Power distribution apprentice Shane Hearne fixing the aerial electricity supply network

Current role: Apprentice Distribution Power Line Worker with Endeavour Energy.

Age: 36.

What got you this role?

I think it was my employer loyalty, only working for two companies in 20 years. Also, having already done an apprenticeship I knew what hard work and study was expected of me.

Formal qualifications:

I have completed a trade in mechanical engineering in toolmaking.

What did you want to do when you grew up?

I knew I wanted to be a tradie. I studied woodwork throughout my high school years and thought I was going to be a builder.

Best school time memory?

Looking back I realise high school was some of the best days of my life. My best memory would have to be the handball rallies at lunchtime.

Work/life so far?

I have worked 5 day and 7 day weeks in my career. I think Endeavour has given me a great balance with fortnightly rostered days off, so I can spend more time with my kids.

Career bumps so far?

In my last job I was forced to reduce my working hours, due to the down turn of the manufacturing industry in Australia, which was hard. That's when I decided to get new skills in a thriving industry, which I am happy I did.

About this trade

- Power distribution workers are involved in the installation, maintenance and repair of electrical distribution networks.
- The role suits people who enjoy practical, outdoor work.
- Power distribution workers work with high and low voltage at considerable heights.
- They must be able to work well in teams.
- Workers can be called out during emergencies at any time of the day or night and in all weather conditions.

A snapshot of this Apprenticeship

- At Endeavour Energy successful candidates receive on-the-job training and the opportunity to obtain a Certificate III in an Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) Distribution qualification.
- First year apprentices are rotated through a variety of locations and roles and are provided with a uniform, 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 and achieved industry standards.

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

For information on Apprenticeships and Traineeships visit

www.training.nsw.gov.au

Who are your career development supporters?

I have older former colleagues who I regularly catch up with and help me. There are also apprentice managers at Endeavour who are always on hand for any problems we have.

Current job description:

I'm nearly half way through the second year of my apprenticeship. To put it simply, I work with 'poles and holes' to maintain the overhead and underground electricity network.

Strangest thing you've had to do?

A suspicious person had put a surveillance camera up high on one of our poles to watch his house. We had to go and remove it under police escort.

Your strengths?

Eagerness, easy going nature, ability to listen, and I enjoy working in a team.

Your weaknesses?

I can be a bit quiet at first.



Endeavour Energy Apprentices with Bert Evans AO, Apprenticeships Ambassador and Graham Robinson, State Training Services

The best part of your work?

Working with a great crew each day and the appreciation from community members when you restore power to their homes.

The worst part of your work?

You can't help but feel something when you see the devastation that storms and bush fires do to our community.

Your greatest mentor/inspiration?

My family give me great inspiration to keep bettering myself, and my Dad who worked for the same company for 45 years, starting as an apprentice fitter and ending as the plant's mechanic.

What job do you most crave?

I'd love to work with the live line crew, working on some of our high voltage transmission lines.

Your work motto?

No matter how big or small the job is, always do your best and give 110%.

Where will you be in 15 years' time?

Working for Endeavour using the skills I have learnt to become a leading hand.

Learn more about this Apprenticeship

Start by searching the web at:

- State Training Services
- Endeavour Energy
- Ausgrid
- E-Oz Energy Skills Australia
- myfuture
- Job Outlook

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.

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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.