

## Sharra Gilbert – Automotive Apprentice

NSW Apprenticeships Ambassador Program – Apprentice and Trainee Career Profiles



Sharra Gilbert, Automotive Apprentice with Bert Evans AO, NSW Apprenticeships Ambassador at Sydney City Toyota in Waterloo, Sydney.

**Current role:** 4th year Automotive Apprentice, Sydney City Toyota.

**Age:** 19

**What got you this role?**

Started as a school based trainee.

**Formal qualifications:**

Certificate II in Automotive Vehicle Servicing (Light Vehicle) and Certificate III in Automotive Mechanical Technology (Light Vehicle). School Certificate and Higher School Certificate.

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

It varied a lot but I never really had one set desire.

**Best school time memory?**

I liked gym. We always had something fun to do. Gymnastics, dancing or soccer; it was all good.

**Work/life so far?**

I try to keep it even so I don't exhaust myself without free time. It gets hard sometimes but it's worth it.

**Career bumps so far?**

I haven't really had any. I prefer to put my job first so I don't endanger my position or ethics.

### About this trade

- Light Vehicle Motor Mechanics are also known as Automotive Technicians, Vehicle Mechanics and Car Mechanics.
- Light Vehicle Motor Mechanics service, repair and overhaul the mechanical part of motor vehicles including the engine, transmission, and suspension systems.
- The role suits people who enjoy practical and manual work and who have an aptitude for technical activities and problem solving.
- Light vehicle mechanics may advance to positions including diagnostic specialist, service adviser, and service manager.
- Keeping up to date with changes in motor industry technology is important.

### A snapshot of this Apprenticeship

- At Sydney City Toyota successful candidates receive on-the-job training and the opportunity to obtain an Automotive (Light Vehicle Mechanical) qualification.
- The apprenticeship usually takes up to four years to complete.
- With further Toyota Institute training and experience, career advancement can lead to Diagnosis Technician and Master Technician and Service Management roles.

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

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

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

**Who are your career development supporters?**

I'd have to say my mum is my main supporter. She helps me out any way she can, always.

**Current job description:**

I'm a 4th year apprentice at Sydney City Toyota.

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

I retrieved a part from a bin which had been mistakenly thrown out.

**Your strengths?**

I am a fairly quick learner and I'll always try something once.

**Your weaknesses?**

I don't have the strength, physically, that most of the other guys do. That's sometimes a pain and I can be fairly clumsy at times.

**The best part of your work?**

The people I work with are great and always helpful and the satisfaction of a job well done.

**The worst part of your work?**

It's not really part of work but getting up so early in the morning. Coffee is my life-force in the mornings.

**Your greatest mentor/inspiration?**

I've had a few awesome mentors who I have worked with while learning. My workshop controller is also the best to have around; always helpful and just fun to be around.

**What job do you most crave?**

I would actually like to explore the world a bit but I don't have a job I want to fully commit to yet.

**Your work motto?**

I haven't thought about it before.

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

I'd like to think I will have my own workshop eventually.

**Learn more about this Apprenticeship**

Start by searching the web at:

- State Training Services
- Sydney City Toyota
- Auto Skills Australia
- myfuture
- Job Outlook

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

**Apprenticeships and traineeships:**

- Are great ways 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.