

Women driving new career opportunities

A GROUP of women interested in becoming drivers are not only taking the wheel, but steering their careers on a new path.

These women are part of a new initiative addressing skills shortages, providing valuable skills and employment outcomes, and contributing to the rebuilding of Queensland.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads have developed this Australian-first initiative to encourage women to 'take the wheel' and pursue a career in the transport, logistics and supply chain industry. As well as funded training for individuals, Women Take the Wheel offers businesses the chance to increase female participation in their workforce. One employer taking advantage of this offer is waste management company JJ Richards and Sons Pty Ltd (JJ Richards).

A new Brisbane contract gave JJ Richards the opportunity to recruit the first female waste management operators into their workforce.

Partnering with Transport and Main Roads, Mission Australia and Strategix Training Group, they advertised a licensing and traineeship program in the Logan community and received a staggering 1,100 applications. "We already had the right environment; we just needed to promote it in the marketplace," said Josh Richards, General Manager of Fleet and Engineering.

Two months on and JJ Richards have filled their nine traineeships with female applicants, and provided up-skilling and licensing to an additional ten women from the local community. Transport and Main Roads Director Louise

Perram-Fisk said Women Take the Wheel had an important role to play in rebuilding Queensland following the recent natural disasters.

"By targeting the employment of women in non-traditional roles, Transport and Main Roads is making a significant and sustainable contribution towards the rebuilding of Queensland through the skilling and employment of drivers and operators."

If you would like more information on the program, please contact Transform on 3306 6785 or by emailing transform@tmr.qld.gov.au



ON BOARD: Graduates from the JJ Richards Women Take the Wheel program in Brisbane.