



## Media Release

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### Lady tradies graduate

A number of female TAFE Queensland North students have been getting their hands dirty at the Mount Isa campus.

Six young ladies have graduated from trade courses, gaining either a Certificate I in Construction, Certificate II in Furniture Making or Certificate II in Aboriginal House Maintenance.

TAFE Queensland North General Manager, Joann Pyne said females who choose to don a hard hat are just as apt as their male counterparts.

“It is wonderful to see so many young women chasing their trade industry career goals; they are great role models for women in our community,” Ms Pyne said.

The [State Government's Queensland Women 2015 Report](#), shows just 1.8% of construction trades workers were female apprentices or trainees.

TAFE Queensland North Construction Teacher, Vaughan Wakefield said over the past few years he has noticed more females enrolling in trade courses in Mount Isa.

“The numbers have been slowly increasing and I hope the trend continues. The ladies in my class have the right attitude and they take a lot of pride in their work.

“It is interesting, when I introduce new tools to the students I ask ‘who wants to have a go first’ and the female students are always the ones who have the most confidence and step forward first to have a go,” Mr Wakefield said.

T'ia Albert is one such student. She will graduate from Spinifex State College this year with a Certificate I in Construction.

“It has been heaps of fun, other people sit behind a desk all day and that is boring to me whereas construction is really interesting. I get to do something new every day, I get to be outdoors and build things for people to use,” Miss Albert said.

Year 11 Good Shepherd Catholic College student, Lili Kruger has always been interested in furniture making.

“My school wasn't doing a woodwork course so I thought I would try something new at TAFE Queensland North. I've made a really nice coffee table and I helped to build a kitchenette for the Mount Isa Fish Stocking Group,” Miss Kruger said.

Ms Pyne said Miss Albert and Miss Kruger were very fortunate to learn from experienced and passionate teacher, Vaughan Wakefield.

“Mr Wakefield is incredibly dedicated to his students and was even named the Educator of the Year at the 2016 TAFE Queensland Staff Awards,” Ms Pyne said

“Women across the region, who are interested in pursuing a trade, should take inspiration from Miss Kruger and Miss Albert and contact TAFE Queensland North to find out how we can help them with their training needs,” Ms Pyne said.

**For more information, please contact TAFE Queensland North Communications and Public Relations Officer Sarah Weir on 4042 2746 or 0408 746 747.**