

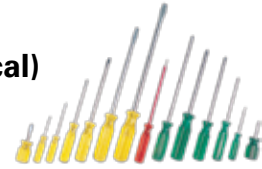
JUSTIN ANDERSON



USE YOUR SKILLS AND INTERESTS. PROFILE No 8



Course: **Certificate IV Aeroskills (Mechanical)**
GTO: **Aviation Australia Group Training**
Host Employer: **Boeing Australia Ltd**



Justin, you're a Mature Age Apprentice. What was the biggest hurdle you had to overcome?

Well there were probably two main hurdles that I found rather difficult. The first one was financial. It was difficult to go down in salary and have to make a few sacrifices. The other hurdle for me was going from being a qualified tradesman who had apprentices under me back into the role of being an apprentice again. I had to swallow my pride and ego a little to be able to go back and start again.

Who else gave you the support you needed to pursue your dreams and goals?

My wife. She really had to. She was the main breadwinner during the whole process, so obviously that was a good support and my whole family as well really.

What was your career before you pursued this one?

I was in the military. I was a diesel mechanic with the Australian Army.

How did you specifically get into what you're doing now?

I always had an interest in aviation, which had been re sparked by working with a colleague of mine while I was still in the army. When it came time to get out of the army I wanted to look for a career that I could carry some existing skills across to so that I wasn't taking too much of a step backwards, but also having something with a greater personal interest and a bit more of a challenge as well.

What's the best thing about the career that you've chosen and where do you think it might take you in the future?

I'm involved in something that is an interest of mine together with the skills that I already have. I currently only work four days a week, so that's pretty good. Every weekend's a three day weekend. The opportunities in the industry that I'm now in compared to what I was in previously are a lot greater. It's a little bit more inspiring, you can see a pathway of being able to move forward later on. You can see people above you and be inspired by them and see what they do. It gives you a bit of an idea of where you can go.

How specifically did a Group Training Organisation help you in that process, get you the position and how do they help you on an ongoing basis?

I was given the opportunity to show Aviation Australia Group Training that I had the capacity to be good at what I was aiming to achieve. Once I'd convinced them, they were there to give me the exposure to respective employers and market me as a product to them, rather than me having to take on that responsibility myself.

What is the best piece of career advice you can give?

Don't be afraid to take your interests and turn them into a career. But don't take a passion and kill it by turning it into a career. You should have interests. Your career should provide you something that is stimulating without destroying what you do outside of work for relaxation purposes.

That's it Justin. Thank you very much.

After a successful career in the Australian Army, Justin is now ahead of schedule to complete his second trade certificate. His achievements during his time in the army (manager of vehicle inspections and maintenance, deployed in East Timor, United Nations Service Medal and Australian Active Service Medal) demonstrate his professional attitude, maturity, dedication and capacity to deal with complex situations. Justin continues to excel in his current role with F111 aircraft support teams. He was dux of his aeroskills course and has completed numerous F111 courses to expand his skills. Justin also applies his leadership skills in his work with Boeing, providing technical assistance and support to both peers and trades assistants aspiring to become aeroskills apprentices.

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