

#21

COMPLETE

Page 1: Women in Collision: Technicians / Estimators

Q1 **Refinish technician/apprentice**

Is your nominee an:

Q2 **No**

Does your nominee own or part own the collision business?

Page 2

Q3 **Yes**

Does the woman you are nominating work for a collision repair business?

Page 3: Tell us about the nominee (self nominations are perfectly acceptable): The more **DETAIL** the better!

Q4

If you are nominating someone else please give us your contact details.

Name **Carl Tinsley**

Company **TAFE NSW**

Email Address

Phone Number



Q5

Please give us contact details for the person you are nominating.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Name | Mia Simione |
| Company | Campbelltown Smash Repairs |
| City/Town | Picton |
| State/Province | NSW |
| Email Address |  |
| Phone Number |  |

Q6

What is the nominee's job title?

Apprentice Refinish Technician (spray painter)

Q7

Tell us about their role in the autobody repair facility they work in. Tasks performed etc.

Mia is a beacon of inspiration for women considering a career in the traditionally male dominated industry of vehicle repair and refinishing.

Mia commenced employment as an apprentice spray painter at Bluett Bodyworks, one of two smash repair workshops that is owned by her employer.

As a result of her dedication and high work ethic at Bluett Bodyworks Mia was moved to her employer's other workshop (Campbelltown Smash repairs) to help establish and set up the paint shop for the same success she had achieved at Bluett Bodyworks.

According to Daniel Fenech workshop manager at Campbelltown smash repairs, "every day she demonstrates amazing skills for someone so young. She is exceptional at what she does with an excellent eye for detail, and she takes real pride in her work".

With the other spray painters in the workshop being contractors they are very reluctant to paint the more difficult, complex, and time-consuming paint jobs such as Mazda 41V, 46G, etc which require specialist application techniques and would slow the contractors down and restrict the number of jobs they could paint each day affecting their earning capacity. Mia has asked for special training on her TAFE days to develop the skills required to perfect these finishes.

Mia is the first to arrive at work and usually the last to leave, this is because she has the added responsibility of organising the paint shop as well as stock control and ordering – a responsibility the contractors would rather Mia handle and one that her boss is very grateful that she does.

Q8

What do they like about the job and the company you work in?

Mia says that the most enjoyable part of her job is being able to step back once the job is finished and having a look over the completed job.

She says this allows her to take note of any imperfections to be dealt with later as the final product and customer satisfaction is what it is all about.

Through TAFE training and skills learned in the workshop Mia says "I get compliments on the quality of my work which encourages me and at the same time I get to open peoples minds to a whole world they never thought of, I'm really hoping to get more women involved in the trade in the future".

"When I started my trade, I had no idea I'd be where I am today. And I am so happy to be here, I had no idea I'd have a talent in spray painting and joining the trade has been the best thing I have done".

Q9

Tell us about any training they have undertaken to improve the skills they bring to business, any involvement with industry groups, local communities, charity work etc.

As well as her TAFE apprenticeship training Mia has undertaken numerous PPG training courses to help improve and develop her skills.

Due to Mia's dedication to training she was selected to attend the 2022 Australian Skills Excellence Forum (one of only 3 autobody students nationally to be invited).

This forum is for students that have been identified with the skills and aptitude to be future International WorldSkills competitors to represent Australia in the Skillaroos squad at International Vocational trade competitions.

Mia's spray-painting training started very early, at age 15 she commenced a joint TAFE/High School program called the Y.E.S. (Youth Engagement Strategy) program.

This course is designed for High School students that are not engaging in the learning environment at school and are in danger of dropping out of High School.

Mia had issues at home that were affecting her performance at school. These problems were related to an alcoholic father and were impacting on her desire to be in school.

The YES program provided Mia with renewed enthusiasm and an opportunity to develop skills to support herself. Mia is now an advocate for the YES program and mentors the new students coming through the course helping them to develop skills through trade training and the opportunities provided by the vehicle autobody trades.

During her TAFE classes Mia has also used her advanced skillset to help other students in her class that are struggling to learn new technologies or processes, these students in some cases are much older than Mia but respond well to her mentoring.

Q10

What do you think they bring to the business personally that might set them apart from others? This is the bit the judges will be reading carefully so make your nominee stand out - the more detail the better.

In the workplace Mia is a valued member of the vehicle refinishing team and has an integral role in the workshop and has been performing not only the duties of long-term tradesmen but also the management and running of the paint shop, whilst still completing her apprenticeship. Mia is only 18 years old.

Mia has also been battling health issues as she was diagnosed with Diabetes and suspected Endometriosis, however this has not slowed her down and she says there are many more people in the world that face much tougher challenges.

Whilst Mia is overcoming her health issues, they do inflict a high financial cost, particularly on a 3rd year apprentice wage and at age 18 and supporting yourself with Mia having to put off appointments with her doctors and medical specialists until she has saved up enough money out of her weekly budget to be able to afford to pay for these important medical appointments.

It is a remarkable achievement by Mia that she has overcome such difficulties in life and all of the challenges that this has presented her to progress from a young person embarking on a trade career to her amazing achievements through persistence, dedication and hard work.
