

MECHANICAL FITTER



Do you want to work in a challenging, constantly advancing & exciting industry that actively encourages women to participate and provides the following opportunities?

- work with the latest technology
- career advancement
- capacity to earn high income with experience
- have a transferrable trade
- run your own business
- become an industry specialist



OVERVIEW OF INDUSTRY

The manufacturing and engineering industry includes a broad range of businesses engaged in a wide variety of activities. They include small manufacturers producing limited quantities of items as well as businesses involved in large scale production of manufactured goods. The industry in Australia is diverse and involves people who conceive, design, manufacture, assemble, install, repair, maintain, package and sell manufactured products. It includes but is not limited to – food processing, textiles, beverages, wood products pulp & paper, printing, chemicals, metal & plastic, electrical & electronic equipment and components, machinery & equipment, prefabricated buildings and furniture, household goods, cleaning products, explosives, pharmaceuticals and many more. It can also cover the whole process or production of specific items that are required for the final product. Activities involve simple processes at one end of the continuum to highly complex transformational processes using high-end technologies at the other. Australia's manufacturing industry currently contributes around \$100 billion to Australian GDP annually and employs around 900,000 Australians. (ABS in 2020).

WHAT DOES A MECHANICAL FITTER DO

A mechanical fitter is a tradesperson who builds, assembles, fits, modifies, tests, fault finds, maintains, adjusts, repairs and installs mechanical systems, equipment and machinery. It includes carrying out a range of mechanical work on a range of machines, sub-assemblies and manufactured parts using a range of processes, tools and machines. They may work in the auto, aircraft, defence, energy, manufacturing, or mining industries where they are responsible for fitting, fabricating, assembling and maintaining structural components that make up mechanical systems. They may repair, service and overhaul a wide-sized range of machinery including mechanic/hydraulic and pneumatic devices, as required. Also, fitters may be involved in the use, operation and programming of a wide array of tools, plant, equipment and computer-controlled machines to turn, mill, weld, cut, shape and machine products and materials.

“I love working as a mechanical fitter because there are so many opportunities to advance my career and I enjoy finding solutions to problems.”

For further information or advise contact

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MECHANICAL FITTER

Selection Criteria:

- *High level of understanding of the importance of WHS compliance.
- *Above average Maths and English results in HSC.
- *Physically fit and stamina to work long hours as required.
- *Ability to demonstrate manual dexterity and co-ordination and work independently.
- *Accuracy and speed when completing repetitive tasks as well as the ability to respond quickly to shut down machinery when required.
- *Good communication skills and ability to work as part of a team.
- *Ability to maintain accurate and confidential records.
- *Above average problem- solving skills .

TASKS YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO DO

- *Interpreting plans, diagrams and graphs for planning operations.
- *Cutting and shaping metal materials.
- *Measuring and marking out materials for fabrication or assembly
- *Fault-finding and determining whether machinery requires repairs or new components.
- *Identifying defective or worn mechanical components or equipment
- *Adhering to safety protocols for multiple types of tools, equipment and machines.
- *Complying with relevant specifications, standards and regulations
- *Repairing/replacing worn/faulty components or equipment
- *Fitting, installing, assembling and modifying assemblies, sub-assemblies, parts or tools, including hydraulic and pneumatic components and devices.
- *Operating, repairing, modifying or manufacturing parts using a range of machine such as lathes, milling, welding, cutting, grinding, drilling and specialist machines.
- *May operate CNC, CAD, CIM and CAM machines.

Training Requirements and Pathways

Entry level

Employers require applicants who have completed at least Year 10 but most prefer applicants who have successfully completed Years 11 & 12. By completing the Pre-Apprenticeship qualification—

MEM20105 - Certificate II in Engineering while at school you'll boost your ability to get a mechanical fitting or machinist apprenticeship.

Trade qualification:

New entries undertake an apprenticeship in **MEM30219 Certificate III in Engineering - Mechanical Trade**. This qualification defines the skills and knowledge required of an engineering tradesperson – mechanical within metal, engineering, manufacturing and associated industries. The qualification has been specifically developed for apprentices in this trade.

The apprenticeship usually takes between 42 and 48 months to complete and is available as a school-based apprenticeship.

You may also need to obtain the following –

- driver's license
- aptitude testing

Income and future opportunities

Mechanical fitters work in diverse industries, and each sector has a unique pay structure. For instance, in the aviation or mining industry, you are likely to earn more than those working in the automobile or manufacturing industries. You can increase your salary as a mechanical fitter by improving your qualifications. There is currently a recognised skills shortage for this occupation, so employment opportunities are very strong for 2022 – 2023.

Wages:

According to Fairwork Australia a first-year apprentice will receive \$548.70 per week.

The annual wage for an experienced mechanical fitter ranges from \$70,000-\$110,000 depending on who your employer is. With further study you could become a mechanical engineer and earn \$90,00 - \$170,000 per annum.

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