

Want your future career  
to soar?

*... Get into Aviation*

*Aircraft Maintenance  
Engineer →*

*Young Women*

*"Don't let the guys have all the fun!"*

***" I completed Year 12 so have the back up of being able to go to university, but I love the course."*** *Danielle*



## **Yes! You can be an Aviation Maintenance Engineer.**

A career in the aerospace industry can offer you exciting opportunities world wide. You will work on a diverse range of aircraft from supersonic military aircraft and commercial airliners through to light aircraft and helicopters.

As an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer you will be involved in the manufacture, installation, maintenance and repair of aircraft components such as engines, airframes and electrics.

There is a state wide shortage of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers in Queensland. Employment is available in general aviation firms, domestic and international airlines, aerospace businesses and the Australian Defence Force. You will be part of an elite team.

*"When I first started in the aviation industry, I didn't know of any other woman doing my role."*

*Tracey*

### **Danielle's Story**

#### **First Year Mechanical Apprentice**

Danielle is a Cairns girl who loves dancing, indoor soccer and racing go karts against the blokes. Her father travels a lot and Danielle has always been willing to go to the airport whenever she can. During her school years she thought about a career in the aviation industry but didn't really know much about it. Her school organised work experience at one of the local aviation companies which Danielle enjoyed and a friend working in the industry suggested Danielle try to get into the "Aviation school". On completion of Grade 12 Danielle called the aviation school and after passing the on-line induction program Danielle joined the Certificate IV Aeroskills Mechanical Course.

*"I love the uniform, it's very comfortable and helps fit in with the boys"*

*"It was intimidating on the first day, a classroom full of boys but now I find it easy to hang out with them."*

### **Kayla's Story**

#### **First Year Mechanical Apprentice**

When living in Victoria Kayla's life changed the day she attended the famous Avalon Airshow. Although Kayla was already undertaking an Advanced Diploma in Aviation, she felt she wanted more industry involvement and believed relocating to Cairns to undertake training at the Cairns Aviation Skills Centre would provide this. Kayla commenced the Certificate IV in Aeroskills – Mechanical but was soon snapped up by a local company. Now Kayla is part of a team working on aircraft which is what she has always wanted to do.

*"I love planes, I always have and I'm very happy with my choice"*

*"Now my younger sister would like to move here to do the same type of work."*





## How do I get there?

To become an Aviation Maintenance Engineer you need to complete an apprenticeship that includes a Certificate IV in Aeroskills. If you have previous experience, contact Skilling Solutions Queensland for advice on recognition of prior learning. The minimum education standard required is Year 10.

There are three Aeroskill specialist programs you can choose from:

- **Mechanical** - Maintaining, inspecting and undertaking fault diagnosis of airframe and engine systems, components and accessories on aircraft.
- **Avionics** - Maintaining, inspecting and undertaking fault diagnosis of aircraft electrical, electronic, instrument and radio systems, components and accessories on aircraft.
- **Structures** - Producing, maintaining, assessing, modifying and repairing all aspects of aircraft structures.

*"There is nothing I don't like about the job. So seize the opportunity if you really want to do it!" Kayla*

You can complete your training in two ways; by completing a one year **institutional program** in a classroom, followed by a three year on the job apprenticeship; or by undertaking a **four year apprenticeship** which combines theory and on-the-job training.

## Institutional program

You can complete the theory components as a fulltime student and then commence as a second year apprentice with an employer. The programs will vary in length from 38 to 42 weeks depending on which Aeroskills course you choose. To assist with fees, fulltime students may be eligible for Austudy or Abstudy.

For further information contact Centrelink on 13 24 90 for Youth Allowance and 13 23 17 for Abstudy.

*"My organised mind has given me a passion for maintenance work."*

Kate

## Four year apprenticeship

This pathway means you will be paid from the time you commence your apprenticeship and you complete your training in blocks throughout the four years. As well, your off-the-job training is fully paid for through the registered training provider that you and your employer select.

## Finding an apprenticeship

If you choose to do an institutional program your training provider will organise a work placement for you during the program and will assist you with finding an apprenticeship when you finish.

Group training organisations are also able to help you with finding an apprenticeship.

For further information contact:

**Aviation Australia**

Ph: 07 3860 0900 [www.aviationaustralia.aero](http://www.aviationaustralia.aero)

**Qld Institute for Aviation Engineering (QIAE)**

Ph: 07 5437 2722 [www.qiae.com.au](http://www.qiae.com.au)

**Aviation Training for Aviation Engineers (ATAE)**

Ph: 07 3277 7227 [www.atae.com.au](http://www.atae.com.au)

**Skill360 Australia**

Ph: 07 4046 4000 [www.skill360.com.au](http://www.skill360.com.au)

**Queensland Apprenticeship Services**

Ph: 07 4050 0777 [www.qas.org.au](http://www.qas.org.au)

**Skilling Solutions Queensland**

Ph: 1300 654 687 [www.skillingolutions.qld.gov.au](http://www.skillingolutions.qld.gov.au)

You may find other providers by searching the internet.



## Things to consider

- Ask your family for support and plan your finances.
- Plan how you will balance study time with part time work and/or looking after a family.
- Determination and self discipline will equip you for this challenging industry.
- Have the confidence to ask questions of your trainers and peers.
- Build your good health and physical strength.
- Resist sexism from family and friends about your career choice - get informed.

For further resources and networks supporting women in non-traditional industries, see [www.women.qld.gov.au/hardhats](http://www.women.qld.gov.au/hardhats)

*"The teachers are awesome, very supportive and help the students relax."*

Katie

## High School pathway for school students

There are some 25 schools in Queensland involved in the Aerospace Gateway Program. This program offers year 11 and 12 students an opportunity to undertake Aerospace studies as a Queensland Studies Authority OP eligible subject. While the focus of the study is aerospace the program also provides a good grounding for students interested in aeroskills. The program informs students about pathways into the State's growing aviation and aerospace industry.

### For further information contact:

Aviation High Ph: 07 3637 0108  
[www.aviationhigh.eq.edu.au](http://www.aviationhigh.eq.edu.au)

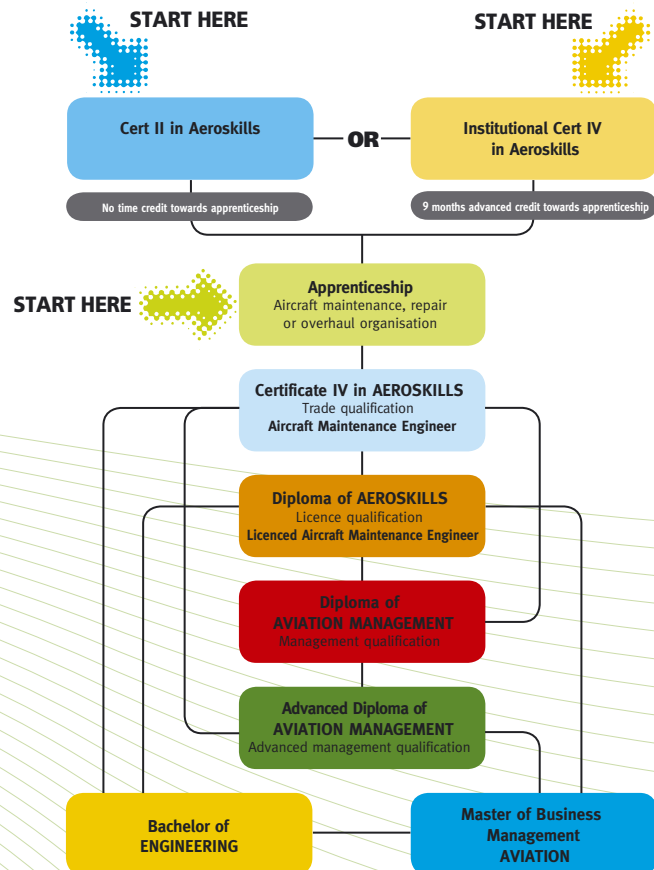
*"Study is a priority."*  
Danielle

## Aeroskills Pathways

After you leave school, you can enter the aviation and aerospace industry via a Certificate II in Aeroskills, the Institutional Certificate IV in Aeroskills or directly into a 4 year apprenticeship. After completing your apprenticeship, you can further your career pathway through management and higher qualifications if you so choose...the sky's the limit!

*"Cairns Aviation Skills Centre and our training provider Aviation Australia actively promote public awareness of women in aviation maintenance to encourage women to explore aviation as a career option and to inspire women of all backgrounds and ages to pursue their dreams."*

Chris Pigott : Manager Cairns Aviation Skills Centre



*"It's challenging, but if you like hands on work, then go for it... You need to be yourself and do what you love!"* Joanne

