

Careers in the defence industry – Welding

Welders weld the metal parts that have been fitted up by the boilermakers or pipe fitters. A First Class Welder carries out welding to build or repair ship structures.



**DEFENCE
INDUSTRY** 
THE OTHER FORCE

Looking for an exciting and rewarding long term career?

Join the thousands of people using a different set of skills to supply and support our defence forces. WA's defence industry provides stable and local employment in defence related activities such as **ship and submarine building, maintenance and sustainment**.

To become a first class welder you usually need to undertake an engineering tradesperson fabrication (first class welder) apprenticeship, which takes 42 to 48 months to complete and is available as a school-based apprenticeship.

HAYLEY MAISEY

Apprentice Welder (2nd year)

PATHWAY: High school > Apprenticeship

“ At high school I wanted to learn how things were made so I did metal work. I then did work placement at an engineering company and enjoyed it so much I applied for a welding apprenticeship at a shipbuilding company that designs and builds ships for the Australian Defence Force.

I like that there are so **many opportunities** in the defence industry, I can learn many different types of welding processes.

I weld the metal plates that get fitted into a block which then becomes part of the ship. When I first saw the whole ship come together it was pretty amazing. I like that welding can take you anywhere. It is heavy work, but it is also **very rewarding**. ”

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MEM30305 Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade



KEY

LEVEL 01 – All job titles in Operations that require a skill level of year 10, a senior secondary certification of education, Certificate I or II. Australian apprenticeships may be offered at this level.

LEVEL 02 – All job titles in Operations that require a Certificate III or IV, or at least three years relevant experience. Australian apprenticeships may be offered at this level.

LEVEL 03 – All job titles in Operations that require a Diploma or Advanced Diploma. Study is often undertaken through TAFEs or Registered Training Organisations. Some universities offer studies at this level.

LEVEL 04 – All job titles in Operations that require a Bachelor Degree or higher qualification. Study is often undertaken at a university.