

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

Maitland Spratt, Telecommunications Trainee, WBHO Infrastructure



My name is Maitland Spratt. I was born and raised in Geraldton, WA. In 2010, I was given the opportunity to join the Clontarf Foundation through its Midwest Academy and this opportunity allowed me to complete my schooling at the local high school.

The Clontarf Academy is an organisation which exists to improve the education, life skills, self-esteem and employment prospects of young Aboriginal men like myself.

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It was through my time with Clontarf Foundation that I learnt discipline, respect and developed my skills and education. In developing these life skills, I was presented with an employment

opportunity to join WBHO Infrastructure on the roll out of the National Broadband Network (NBN).

My company is one of the leading Delivery Partners on the NBN network roll out. It's great working for WBHO and I'm extremely proud to be a part of Australia's biggest infrastructure project.

WBHO has rewarded me with many opportunities to progress my skills and career. I have worked on most aspects of the NBN, starting with civil

works, followed by hauling of fibre and copper cables using winch trucks. I then commenced a traineeship in Certificate III Telecommunications — Cable Joiner Copper. The traineeship

is an initiative implemented in a joint venture with the NBN Athena Team and WBHO.

I am very fortunate and grateful to be given the opportunity to learn, upskill and develop my career, all while doing something I love.

WBHO has such a regionally-diverse project portfolio for the NBN network roll out which has been the most enjoyable part of my job to date. I have worked and stayed in many different areas across WA and I've particularly enjoyed my time in the South West, which I don't think I would have otherwise had the opportunity to see and experience.

I live and work with my colleagues in these different project areas and while it can be a challenge, I have made some friendships for life and have fond memories of my time on the roll out.

Currently, I'm training in, and working on the fibre and copper aspect of the node construction. It can be mentally challenging and complex but I enjoy the challenges; they motivate me to strive

for personal and professional growth. I want to be seen as a professional and industry leader at what I do.

The future is looking good for me with WBHO. We have started works in the North-West and I'm particularly excited to be a part of WBHO and NBN's initiative to work with Traditional Land Owner groups, building rewarding relationships, providing employment and training opportunities for local Indigenous people and participating in cultural awareness training with my colleagues.

I'm looking forward to being amongst my culture and respected members of Indigenous communities, and it will be great for my colleagues to experience my culture too.

I have found my passion within the telecommunications industry and my long-term goal is to complete my studies and grow my experience so that I can one day walk down the street and show my children what I have built, just like my dad does with me. ■