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## **How to Become a Hairdresser in Australia?**

Have You Ever Thought Of A Career In Hairdressing?

### **When I Started Hairdressing**

When I started my hairdressing career twenty three years ago, I was one of many girls at the time who was looking to secure an apprenticeship in the glamorous world of hair & beauty. I was able to kick start my hairdressing career through work experience whilst I was still in high school. Although my work experience only lasted one week, I knew by the end of that week that I wanted to pursue a career in hairdressing.

### **My Apprenticeship With Stefan Hair Fashions**

When I first started out hairdressing, apprenticeships were quite easy to find, every other girl I knew also wanted to be a hairdresser and the hair & beauty industry was booming. I was really fortunate and I only needed to go for one interview with Stefan Hair fashions in Brisbane, Queensland. As I had already done work experience with them, they were able to see my enthusiasm and capabilities during that time, so I was hired on the spot and I virtually started my apprenticeship within a few weeks.

### **Attending TAFE College**

Back then private hair colleges were not very common in Australia and were very expensive, so most of the girls completed their apprenticeship through private hair salons. We were usually given one day off a week, another day to go to TAFE College to learn our practical and hair theory and then we spent the rest of the week in the salon cleaning and learning from our senior hairdressers.

### **More Hair Colleges And Less Apprenticeships**

These days there seems to be more private colleges and less apprenticeships available. Although there are financial incentives for employers to employ hairdressing apprentices, the overall cost and time spent training people can outweigh the benefits. I am quite amazed that Australia is short of hairdressers, as everywhere I turn I see hair salons opening and plenty of staff working.

### **Is Hairdressing For You?**

Hairdressing can be a wonderful career and if you have interest in hair and beauty then hairdressing could be the career for you. Years ago when I first

started out hairdressing, apprenticeships were usually only offered to young girls who just left school, however I believe that hairdressing is suitable for just about anyone who likes hair and working with people.

### **Three Main Categories**

- I see three main categories that you may fall under, the first category is the young girls who have just left school and have been keen for many years to do hairdressing, these girls usually sought out an apprenticeship with local hair salons or some of the bigger companies such as Stefan Hair Fashions.
- The second category are usually overseas students coming to Australia who usually secure a visa by completing a certificate in hairdressing, these students enroll at private hair colleges and usually go on to secure work within the hairdressing industry.
- The third main category are mature aged ladies that would like a career change or decided to start a family first and never got around to building a career in hair. I personally know a few mature age ladies that have fallen under both of those categories.

### **Overseas Students and Mature Aged Women Attending Hair Colleges**

#### **Hairdressing College**

- Overseas students and mature age ladies are usually unlikely to obtain an apprenticeship from a local hairdressing salon, I personally have found that the more well known hair salon chains like to recruit young girls when they are around seventeen years of age and train them with their very own style of hairdressing and salon philosophy.
- My advice is not to give up, know what category you fall under, if you enjoy hair and working with people there is usually always a way to finding a career in the hair industry.
- There are many private hair colleges that invite you to complete your hairdressing certificates with them, allowing you to go on and seek work in independent salons or possibly open your own from home.
- I will be talking about how to choose the right hair college in Australia and questions that you need to ask before handing over your hard earned money in the future posts.

### **Have You Considered Mobile Hairdressing Or Doing Hair At Home**

- Some of these hair colleges don't come cheap, however I see it as buying yourself a job.
- Of course there are no guarantees, there never usually are, however it is no different to borrowing money from the bank to buy or set up a new business.
- Once completing your course if you have no luck finding a position in a private hair salon straight away, you may wish to consider mobile hairdressing or setting up a salon from home.
- Be aware that there are costs associated with both, some of these include insurances, cost of equipment, petrol, hair colours and if you are operating from home, council regulations etc.
- Both mobile hairdressing and operating your own salon from home offers you your own freedom as you can work your own day's and hours.

### **Mobile Hairdressing VS Home Hair Salon**

- Mobile hairdressing and working from home can both be very attractive to a hairdresser that doesn't wish to work for someone else or to be employed full time.
- However both of them give you the choice of when you would like to work! I have personally done both as I still wanted to work within the hairdressing industry once I had sold my last hair salon. Both methods have their good and bad points.

### **Mobile Hairdressing in Australia**

- Mobile hairdressing require to have your own transport, however allows you to travel to clients homes and provide a personalised service.
- I suggest that you put a cap on the distance you will travel that is included in your hair services costs.
- Occasionally I would have a few clients that lived outside the catchment area and would charge them an additional travel fee, depending on how far I needed to travel.
- You also need to be very organised in advance, make sure that all your hairdressing equipment is kept clean, well organised & stored appropriately, your colour stock is replenished on a weekly basis and that you have plenty of clean fresh towels and cutting capes.
- When I was mobile hairdressing I loved the fact that I could get out of the house for a few hours while the kids were at school, visit regular clients that I had built up a great friendship with, do there hair and have a cup of coffee and chat with them.
- Most clients usually only took a couple of hours each including traveling time allowing me to fit in at least two clients a day during school hours.
- However if you don't have time restrictions then you can fit in as many clients as you can.

- A great way to make money and meet new people! Keep in mind booking new clients takes time to build up, so you may need to work part time somewhere else initially if you are needing to support yourself financially.

### **Setting Up A Salon From Home in Australia**

- Setting up a salon from home is a great way to build up a profitable business with regular hair clients. If working full time in a busy hair salon doesn't appeal to you or traveling around providing mobile hair services seems too much, then a home hair salon may be the perfect choice for you!
- Home hair salons do require an initial set up cost, however you will probably be able to recover those initial costs by the end of the first year.
- There are a few other factors that you need to take into consideration, you will need to contact your local council and enquire into any regulations that are required. You will need to register a business name and display your business registration and hairdressing certificates to your clients.
- In my opinion home hair salons are great for mothers with children that are still at school as you are able to work around the kids schedules and provide hair services in the evenings and weekends. It saves you running around to other people's homes and carrying all of your equipment with you.

If you have any questions that you would like to ask about How to Become a Hairdresser in Australia?, please feel free to ask.

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