



Built to crack the mould

my big break

Sam Sheppard

Age: **40s**

Profession: **Building domestic housing and property development**

Qualifications: **Licensed builder, real estate agent licence, Building Construction Certificate IV, Diploma in Environmental Sustainability, and JP**

First job: **Sunday markets, a morning job in a newsagency and I ran my own little Avon business**

Current job: **Builder, director and licensed nominee for The Buildmore Group**

How many years have you worked in the industry?

My first job in the industry was in administration for a timber yard when I was 17.

Your starting salary?

\$15 for a half-day at a Sunday market.



Career highlights?

The Buildmore Women Into Building Housing Showcase that I initiated, coordinated, and built. It is an award-winning sustainable house designed,

constructed and supplied primarily by women. The aim was to elevate awareness and acceptance of the many women carving out careers in non-traditional roles within building and construction industries.

How did you get your job?

I established the Buildmore Group in February 2002. In April 2002 I was involved in a serious car accident that put me out of action until July, but by December, Buildmore had 22 staff working full-time.

What does it involve?

A typical day involves meeting contractors on-site; attending key stakeholder or association meetings, management meetings with key staff, tracking schedules and quality assurance. I also update on any new technical or regulatory data and I regularly speak at events.

Pros and cons?

I love that I spend my working hours doing something I am passionate about. I am pleased I have proven my credibility to be given a voice. I enjoy mentoring and being asked for advice. I enjoy advocating

women in non-traditional roles and working with clients to create beautiful, functional homes that reflect their values and lifestyle. It is hard to think of negatives, I guess you have to be careful with money management to ensure you can meet your financial obligations at any time.

How would you improve your job?

I'm always open to suggestion and change. The industry, marketplace and people's values are always changing. So it is important to always be alert to what is going on around you and aim to develop and innovate.

What's the best career advice you've ever had?

Never let someone else shoot down your dreams. You are a product of your own choices.

What advice would you give someone starting out?

In a non-traditional role, you already stand out. Be proud to stand out, it is not a disadvantage, this is your point of difference. A work environment is no place to be humble.

