

“Put the power in your hands” transcript

Marie: It looked appealing to me because it has everything that I experienced and the good things that I took from my past jobs. As a big company: opportunity to move around, definitely diverse so, so many jobs you could do and that’s mainly why I thought it’d be a good way to go. I’m glad I did.

Jesse: Probably the best thing about the job is some of the places you go to, that you wouldn’t normally go to. People travel all over Australia to go to some of the places we go to work, so that’d be the best bit about the job I think.

Marie: I’m the type of person that really likes being put out of my comfort zone, I know a lot of people don’t, but it’s something that I really thrive on and this definitely brings that a lot. Especially being in electrical, you do move around every four months during your apprenticeship to a different area that you could potentially work in.

Jesse: Some of the mornings it’s really crisp, and clean, and just fresh air and kangaroos jumping around. It’s just something you don’t associate with the job until you actually do it, and then when you see it you’re like, “this is my work place!”

Marie: It’s quite hard being an electrician to see where you come in to public perception, because electricians are a little bit behind the scenes so I was thinking, “okay, if I’m not out on the lines, what will I be doing?”

But, as I’ve gone through my apprenticeship I’ve seen that we’re doing the panels in the substations, so it’s a lot of behind the scenes work, so I thought, “how great that I’ve been able to participate even as an apprentice to provide electricity for SA Power” and I thought, “oh that’s pretty cool, I’ve made a bit of a difference.”

Jesse: Makes you feel good when you go to somewhere and you restore the power for these people. Since we’re in [Port] Pirie our patch is quite country and you go to people’s place and they cook you up soup and give you scones, and they’re really excited to see you, and it makes you feel good. It’s not great when the power goes out, but when we get the power on that gives you a real sense of pride in what we do.

I would without a doubt recommend an apprenticeship at SA Power Networks, the reason why? Because it’s just a great environment to work with, in a company that actually cares about you and treats you not just like a number, and as an actual worker.

Marie: I’d highly recommend an apprenticeship to other people. SA Power’s just a great spot. Especially if you don’t know what you want to do. I feel like there’s a lot of pressure or people think with an apprenticeship, “oh it must be something that you’ve thought about” and it wasn’t the case at all. I was thinking uni the whole time after school. You’ll surprise yourself! It’s definitely different to what you think, once you start.