

The position of women in production in the process manufacturing industry in South Australia: implications for VET

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As part of a wider industry study undertaken by the process manufacturing ITAB, the position of women in production was surveyed. The findings indicate a discriminatory pattern of employment for women, who comprise approximately a quarter of the workforce. Women are more likely than men to be employed in part-time and casual positions and their access to traineeships is limited.

Women tend to be clustered in low-skilled production jobs and their representation in supervisory positions is limited. The reasons for women's exclusion from high skilled production jobs and the implications for their access to VET are considered. The problem is not just one of equity, but whether industry is fully utilizing the skills of the workforce.