

Ready to Work managing director and co-founder Rachael Hain, alongside operations manager Jodi Tazewell and the program's longest-serving volunteer, Sue McIntyre.



Ready to help

Not-for-profit organisation Ready to Work is giving hope to disadvantaged Western Australian women, one outfit at a time. words Georgina Barker

Sarah's life spiralled out of control very quickly. Her successful IT career and life in Melbourne fell apart when she took herself off her medication for anxiety and mental-health issues. Turning instead to drugs and alcohol, within months she had lost her job, attempted suicide twice, and was homeless.

After resisting at first, Sarah (not her real name) allowed her father to bring her back to Perth where she set about sorting her life out. But when at last she was ready to launch back into the professional world, she found that she had nothing to wear to interviews: all the clothes from her previous career were in Melbourne, and she couldn't afford to bring anything over or buy anything new. Then she found Ready to Work.

Ready to Work provides disadvantaged women with skills and work attire to put their best foot forward at interviews. "Our mission is to empower women to work by providing them with tools that will help them to secure employment and ultimately succeed in work and in life," says managing and co-founding director Rachael Hain.

For Sarah, Ready to Work enabled her to rebuild her life. "Getting back to work was the key for me to regain my confidence and self-worth, and, of course, financial independence," she says.

"Everything was so unstable. I had been out of work for five months and had lost all my self-confidence, but the ladies at Ready to Work took

me in and fussed over me. They put the time and effort into finding outfits I liked, complete with accessories, and made sure I felt good. I also went to one of their motivational workshops, which really helped my self-esteem."

Sarah accepted one of the two jobs she was offered and is re-establishing her career in IT. She's back on medication, lives by herself and has been clean for a year. She says she couldn't have done it without Ready to Work.

To date, Ready to Work has helped more than 650 disadvantaged women in WA to find work. "Our research shows that in assisting disadvantaged women to secure employment, there is a positive flow-on effect – not only for our clients, but also directly to their immediate family and the broader community," says Rachael.

"There have been some amazing stories of disadvantage, but what has been so wonderful is the determination of our clients once they've had their appointment with Ready to Work. And once they've completed our program we see the increased confidence, determination and self-esteem. Many have said without the assistance of Ready to Work they wouldn't have even had the confidence to attend the interview."

Ready to Work needs financial or clothing donations, plus volunteers to assist with interview techniques, motivational seminars, personal styling, fundraising and admin. Visit readytowork.org.au.

Joy Avenue

HIGH END FASHION BOUTIQUE
MAKEUP BAR - NAPOLEON PERDIS
SPRAY TANNING ROOM - AVIVA

LAUREN CHAPLIN

BARIANO

LE GENEVIEVE

BEBE

LIFEWITHBIRD

BLUE JUICE

PASSION FUSSION

HUNT NO MORE

LIONESS

EILEEN KIRBY

PREMINITION

KUKU

REVILO

FRESH SOUL

SACHA DRAKE

HUNTING BIRD

SAMANTHA WILLS

IIKOY

URBAN ORIGINALS

JESSICA BRATICH

TUSK

JONTE

WINONA

KEEPSAKE

ZHIVAGO

LADAKH



8 Napoleon Street , Cottesloe
T: (08) 9384 0505

 find us on facebook