



Certifier Case Study: Amanda Whitson

Amanda Whitson, a building inspector with BPK Building Approvals in Newcastle, says the recent introduction of the A4 Building Inspector has made a direct change to her work.

“My role had been that of a trainee private certifier, carrying out various office duties, being trained in the assessment process of construction certificates and complying development certificates and attending critical stage inspections with our A1 Accredited Certifier,” she explains, adding: “And don’t forget, making excellent coffee!”

But as the first student to receive the A4 Building Inspector accreditation, her role has changed.

“Now that I have become accredited as an A4, my role has now expanded to being able to carry out various critical stage inspections on my own, but under the supervision of our A1.”

The new Category A4 – Building Inspector will create a pathway for trainees into the industry. For Amanda, who is studying a Diploma in Building Surveying - OTEN, it formally recognises her studies and the experience she is receiving on the job.

“All elements of my study are useful in my current role,” she says. “Practicing in my work what I learn through my course really helps me to perform better as a student, and an employee.”

“I love that I learn something new every day and that I can apply it to my role now, and in the future.”

Amanda, whose work out of the Stockton office of BPK Building Approvals covers the Port Stephens, Maitland, Newcastle and the Lake Macquarie areas, says there are always challenges with the job.

“I think keeping up to date with the changes in the building industry such as designs and the building materials used in construction [is an issue, as is] ensuring certifiers are aware of changes to the regulations and putting them into practice.”

However, Amanda thinks the future is bright for those in her profession.

“Once I have completed my studies, I will definitely be applying for accreditation as an A3 building surveyor and continue working for BPK Building Approvals. Long term, I would like to look at beginning my own business.”

“The recent changes to the Accreditation Scheme has opened up doors for students like myself to become accredited... and with all other certifiers having to be suitably qualified, I think the future for accredited certifiers looks very promising.”