



Mum living designer dream

SECRET Harbour fashion design student Kalina Cannon, (38) is what some may describe as a super mum.

The Secret Harbour mother of five is just a few stitches away from completing a Challenger Institute Applied Fashion Design and Technology Diploma.

On top of her full-time studies and running around after her children, Mrs Cannon takes part in the Savile Row tailoring course at the institute and is working on a design project for Engineers Australia.

Mrs Cannon said she had always dreamed of studying fashion.

"Twenty years ago it was my career aspiration but back in those days it was a much harder industry to crack into," she said. "My mum passed on her sewing skills and knowledge to me at a very young age.

"I still remember knitting my very first jumper when I was 10 years old."



Kalina Cannon, seemingly supermum.

Picture: Neil Mulligan d359702

Mrs Cannon described her design style as elegant.

"I like to stick with elegance, I am not a way-out designer, I stay with the trends, but focus on elegance," she said.

Though Mrs Cannon was already doing three days a week with her diploma, she could not resist taking on the

Savile Row tailoring course as well. "It was such a good opportunity, we get to learn from a master," she said.

The course is taught by world-renowned master tailor Sydney Flowers.

"Watching him work is awe-inspiring and I am so grateful for the skills I have developed as a result," Mrs Cannon said.

She is also working on a new initiative, Engineers Australia Fit for Work, which is a competition she and another diploma student are working on together.

"There are some clothes out there for women but most employers only buy the men's versions and that's unsafe," Mrs Cannon said.

"We are tailoring clothes to fit the shape of a women's body."

The pair are designing and constructing personal protective equipment uniforms specifically for women.