



# CIBSE ANZ WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

## #INWED23



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### When did your passion for Engineering start?

As a young child I was always drawn to Lego, but mainly got given Barbies disappointingly. I built my first computer at the age of 10, and was drawn to the arts, sciences, programming and those types of classes at school. My parents did not want me to go into engineering, but I stuck with that in mind and went to study Elec Eng & computer science at Uni, did my thesis on the cochlear implant with a DSP background but worked out my personality worked better for more outgoing teams so moved on to apply for every other job I could find at the end of uni.

I was offered 5 different positions but took the one that I knew nothing about – consulting, because it promised me 1 year in Sydney and 2 years in London and landed me in the world of building services engineering.

### Tell us a little bit about your job.

With this job I got to travel straight away in my early career to work in London – worked there for 4 years, had opportunities to work for clients around the UK, travelled even to Dallas in the US with a client. Moved to Singapore for personal reasons with no job – got a job within a week of landing! Unreal, because of my technical skillset. A job that gave me a portfolio of work around Asia Pacific – travelled to Sydney, Hong Kong, Shanghai and San Jose.

I chose this job because I got to go to site and not have to sit at a desk all day. As a consultant, I work with clients to understand them and their business, and I bring my technical expertise to help find solutions to improve the way they do their business.

### What do you love about your job?

I love being able to solve problems for clients and explain how best they can operate or improve because of our solutions.



I really love being able to influence driving positive change – an example is where I went to Dallas for a design charrette back in 2007 for a client and got to push the envelope of design, to snap the rubber band and do something different rather than just stretch the rubber band more, and we designed one of the first fresh air-cooled data centres in the globe with an ultimate design energy efficiency level that is still one of the better ones around the planet today.

### **What is the biggest impact you hope to have in engineering through your work?**

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Buildings and construction account for almost 40% of final energy use and CO2 emissions, and with the technology and understanding we have now of our impact, we have such a duty to effect change and turn this tide around, to disrupt and do things differently. I'm excited to be part of that change with AECOM and it's sustainable legacies charter and through our reach we are able to reach governments and large corporates to drive real change across not just our industry but multiple.

### **Why do you volunteer on a CIBSE committee?**

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I volunteer for CIBSE because building services engineers are a community of people that have a strong role to play in society and Australia is not like the UK where they even have building services engineering degrees – it's not a known career choice here. I have had an incredible career and life because of this industry, and I want more people to be aware of this choice, and to fulfil that responsibility to our society with the key knowledge and support to accomplish great things as a group of professionals.

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