

Meet Allie Korompay

An Undergraduate Engineer at CPB, working on the redevelopment of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.



In support of the NSW Government's Hard Work Knows No Gender awareness campaign, we sat down with Allie to find out why she is pursuing a career in construction and what she enjoys about working on site.

What are your qualifications?

I'm studying a Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Sub Major in Construction) Diploma in Professional Engineering Practice.

Please describe your current job?

I'm working on the project's enabling works now, coordinating the electrical and communication relocations. I will move onto the piling and main tower lift core construction next. My role involves managing the short term look-ahead which includes staging, program pre-commencement documentation, quality records, and safety standards. I spend as much time as possible on site as that's where I'm learning the most, at the work front.

What sparked your interest in a construction career?

I love problem solving and have always been driven to understand the mechanics behind how and why something works. I have always had a strong passion for maths and physics and throughout school, was fortunate enough to be in an environment that promoted women in STEM. I have no second guesses about my career choice. I love the industry and love the work. I work on big projects with significant community impacts and at the end of the day I see tangible results.

What skills and attributes do you need for your job?

You need to be diligent, ambitious and resilient and be good at project management, risk assessment, quality control/assurance and client communication. You also need to be focused on efficient and safe construction so a high regard for integrity is important too.

What's next career-wise?

I'd like to continue working on large and significant projects like this one. I am up for the challenge of being a Project Manager one day – I think that role would be extremely rewarding.

Your advice for those considering a career in construction?

Trust your judgement, and your competence – and others will grow to trust you too. In saying that, I also highly recommend asking questions. People are happy to share and they generally appreciate you taking an interest. Finally, don't hesitate, try everything.

How important is diversity to the experiences on site?

It is most important for women to realise the avenues available to them, from school age, so they can see and drive their future. I wasn't aware of half the opportunities within construction until commencing in the industry, and I only came into it through STEM programs. I don't think we can assume women not participating in dedicated programs will see or understand construction as a viable career option.

It's important to have women in management roles to make the industry less intimidating upon entry, and to model gender diversity and career progression in general. Senior male leaders can often have very different experiences to women.

Stereotypes do exist and unequal treatment does occur in construction, but on balance I have been lucky and my engineer colleagues do respect my work. The goal should be for uniformity, equal action, and respectful interaction between all disciplines on site, not just amongst the engineers. This will only happen with more women in the industry.

What are the things good construction employers do?

1. They support women to support each other.
Our women-in-construction committees organise events and campaigns that help women network within the project but also across the business.
2. They employ good managers – it makes a huge difference being valued, included and mentored, regardless of gender.

For more information on the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Redevelopment, visit:
rparedevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au

For more information on Women in Construction, visit:
nsw.gov.au/employment/women-construction

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