

# Meet Lizzie Cox

Project director, John Holland, working on the construction of the Sydney Children's Hospital Stage 1 and Minderoo Children's Comprehensive Cancer Centre.



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

## What are your qualifications, Lizzie?

Bachelor of Interior Architecture.

## Please describe your current job?

Project director working across John Holland's Health Infrastructure projects to provide consistency of approach in delivery.

## What's the best part of your job?

The complexity - working with a diverse range of people across numerous disciplines with competing agendas while having a best-for-project approach.

## What's the most challenging part of your job?

Understanding enough detail to add value to conversations and provide direction while maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

## What personal skills and attributes do you need for a job like yours?

You need to be a great communicator and listener, empathetic to other people's needs and requirements, have a very good memory, be agile to change, but above all, be resilient.

## For those interested in doing work experience in the construction industry - what would you recommend?

Get in contact with builders or subcontractors directly. Most organisations are looking for enthusiastic new talent.

## Do you have a favourite project you've worked on? Tell us what you liked about it.

Forensic Pathology/Coroner's Court - a once in a lifetime project supporting a medical service often overlooked. The stories and endurance of the end users were astonishing.

## What are the three things good construction employers do in your opinion?

- They have flexibility policies for positive work-life balance
- They provide both male and female employees with 18-weeks parental leave
- They train and develop employees to ensure progression and staff retention.

## How important is diversity on a work site and what does it contribute to the experience of working on site?

Very important. Having been heavily involved with the RMIT research on the Culture Standard, diversity is proven to benefit all areas of construction. It provides diversity of thought which leads to innovation challenging past behaviours, systems and processes.

## What's changed, changing, or coming soon to make construction more of an industry-of-choice for women?

The introduction of standards relating to culture; ie mental wellbeing, diversity and flexibility, on all government projects would greatly benefit the industry.

For more information on the Sydney Children's Hospital Stage 1 and Minderoo Children's Comprehensive Cancer Centre project, visit: [randwickcampusredevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au/projects/sch1](http://randwickcampusredevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au/projects/sch1)

For more information on Women in Construction, visit: [nsw.gov.au/employment/women-construction](http://nsw.gov.au/employment/women-construction)