

INFRASTRUCTURE WOMEN IN FOCUS



WIN NZ has been established to grow the visibility of women in the infrastructure sector and is open to women of all levels. Every month we will be profiling a different woman working in a different part of the sector. If you would like to be profiled, please answer the questions below and send your picture through to [Natasha](#).

We'd like to introduce Elizabeth as our next Woman of Focus. In addition to her role at Deloitte, Elizabeth also sits on the Wellington WIN chapter committee.



ELIZABETH MARDELL
(NÉE MURRAY)

CORPORATE FINANCE

Deloitte.

1. What company or organisation do you work for and what is your role there?

I work at Deloitte in our Wellington office, and I am an Associate Director in our Corporate Finance team. I lean towards providing financial advisory services, particularly with the Public Sector.

I'm passionate about supporting organisations solve their most pressing strategic, financial and commercial challenges. Lately, I've been applying these skills by supporting central and local government agencies with tender evaluation, business cases and financial modelling services.

2. Tell us about your career background and how you got to this position/role?

I've been with Deloitte since I graduated from Victoria University 11 years ago after studying Chemistry, Economics & Finance. Originally I planned to stay at Deloitte for two or three years and head over to London. Unfortunately in 2008 when the GFC hit the timing wasn't great for me to make the move over to the northern hemisphere. I stuck with my "good job" in Wellington, and I haven't looked back since.

My role now differs considerably from when I started out as an analyst. I'm now the engagement manager, coach to the teams on my projects and I make sure the deliverable gets over the line. Gone are the days of spending hours building financial models in Excel.

Through my career at Deloitte I've had some meaningful and lengthy secondments at the NZ Transport Agency, NZ Defence Force & Chorus. These roles have given me valuable insight and empathy towards the processes and challenges these organisations respond to and operate within.

3. Tell us about a project are you currently working on and why it interests you?

I'm currently working for a government agency that is refreshing a programme business case to unlock the next phase of funding for their infrastructure assets and services.

One of the challenges for central government agencies is to communicate the value of investment that the government will receive from allocating funds towards the agency. The New Zealand government has fiscal pressure with respect to the investment pipeline - funding will be prioritised towards programmes and projects that offer a compelling argument and value for money.

We are all tax payers that are contributing towards the government fiscal position, and I like to think I'm playing my part in helping our public money be spent efficiently and effectively.

4. What's the hardest job you've ever done and why?

My hardest role involved collaborating with a large team of contractors, each with a unique set of skills and some big personalities in the mix. I'm naturally a quiet person who listens, develops ideas and presents back. This role required me to be much more direct, deliver ideas on the spot and crack the whip. This role taught me a lot about my style of working and also to be authentic to myself - otherwise, it is just exhausting!

Day to day, managing the role of my work life, trying to get out running and being the best wife, sister, daughter, and friend I can be is an ongoing balancing act!

5. Can you think of one example where your "diversity" has materially affected the outcome of a work situation or project, either positively or negatively?

In my Corporate Finance team, there are equal numbers of men and women at the Associate Director & Director level. This is not the norm I've observed over my career. The benefit I see is the ability to troubleshoot with my male and female peers as we navigate new challenges at a similar age and stage (both professionally and personally). I appreciate the different perspectives that the team around me can offer. Having a strong cohort of talented women around me who truly understand the pressures of my role is invaluable.

To learn more about opportunities for a career with Deloitte please [click here](#).

Or, you can [connect with Elizabeth on LinkedIn](#).

