

Empowering Women in Hydrography: Experiences in Australasia

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SUMMARY

Since 2021 the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) has run the ‘Empowering Women in Hydrography’ (EWH) initiative, a project which recognises the low numbers of women in the field and which has “... the goal of raising awareness about career opportunities in hydrography, and to increase the number of women in leadership positions.” In 2023, we undertook an investigation into the women in hydrography in the South-West Pacific from three perspectives: 1) women in hydrography, 2) hydrographic employers, and 3) an undergraduate. We ran questionnaires and an online investigation to understand the current state of hydrography for women in our area and present the results here – along with suggestions for improvements that we hope audience members can take home and apply in their own countries or specialist areas of surveying in order to see greater numbers of women in the profession. □ Additionally, in 2024, Emily Tidey attended the intersessional meeting of the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board of Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC), as one of four selected EWH IBSC interns. At this meeting the interns assisted with the revision of the S-5 and S-8 Standards of Competence standards. This was a valuable experience as a participant coming from an institution that teaches hydrography, a previous student of a Category A recognised course, and as a woman in hydrography. Reflections on the application process, the meeting and thoughts for others thinking of providing these opportunities are shared in the second half of this presentation. □

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