

Status of Women in the Spatial Industry Internationally

Robyn McCUTCHEON, Australia

Key words: Women in Spatial, Surveying, Gender Issues in Surveying and Spatial

SUMMARY

This is a presentation on the initial findings of the Commission 1 WG study on the status of women in the surveying industry. The study builds on the findings of the Working group - Underrepresented groups in Surveying - gender issues – concluded in 2008 and the work of the Australian/ New Zealand spatial community which began in 2006 and followed up in 2011.

The question that the Commission 1 WG want to ask in their plan for 2015 /18 is - Are women still underrepresented in the surveying industry?

We want to know if anything has changed since these earlier studies were carried out.

The study includes data collected through a survey of FIG member organisation. The proposal is to setup an international network of women in surveying to further investigate the issues and promote the participation of women in the surveying industry.

Using the power of social networking and online communications the WG will endeavour to analyse the status of women in the surveying workforce across the FIG community.

Statistics have been gathered over the years to monitor the number of women and their work in the surveying and spatial industry in Australia and New Zealand. The WG wants to discover if the situation is similar for women across the international FIG community.

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1. STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE SURVEYING INDUSTRY IN THE FIG COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

This presentation will present the initial findings of the Commission 1 Working Group (WG) study on the status of women in the surveying industry. The study builds on the findings of the Working group - Underrepresented groups in Surveying - gender issues – concluded in 2008 and the work of the Australian/ New Zealand spatial community which began in 2006 and followed up in 2011. The question that the Commission 1 WG are asking in their plan for 2015 /18 is - Are women still underrepresented in the surveying industry?

We want to know if anything has changed since these earlier studies were carried out. If the results of the study indicate no improvement in the status of women in the surveying industry, we will propose a continuation of the work of the Working group - Underrepresented groups in Surveying - gender issues.

The study will include data collected through a survey of FIG member organisations and related networks. Using the power of social networking and online communications the WG will endeavour to analyse the status of women in the surveying workforce across the FIG community and further. Statistics have been gathered over the years to monitor the number of women and their work in the surveying and spatial industry in Australia and New Zealand. The WG wants to discover if the situation is similar for women across the international FIG community.

This presentation will report on the progress to compare the findings from this recent survey with the findings from the surveys conducted in 2006 and 2011 and will attempt to outline the issues which are still facing women in the surveying and spatial industry internationally.

We will be inviting an open session for discussion on issues affecting women in the surveying industry.

2. THE SURVEY SO FAR – 2017 DATA COLLECTION

The 2017 data collection process is underway but by presenting at this Working Week our aim is to spread the word and increase the responses. Therefore, we will not close the survey for at least another month after this Working Week.

3. PREVIOUS SURVEY RESULTS

A snapshot of the previous survey results is included- the current survey has been designed to apply this data internationally .

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3.1 The (2011) Survey

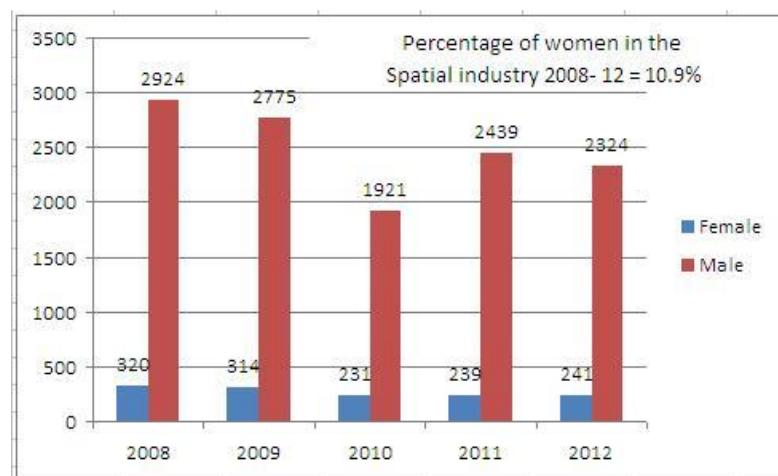
Two surveys have been carried out in Australia and NZ of women in the spatial industry in recent years. The first in 2005 was a survey of Women in Spatial in Australia and New Zealand. SSSI members are predominantly from Australia and New Zealand.

At a high level the surveys taken in 2005 and 2011 in Australia showed that there were far fewer women in the spatial industry than men, although this statistic was gathered from overall membership of SSI and SSSI.

The method:

The survey was distributed to SSSI members by email and through social media and members were asked to spread the link to their networks. The link to the survey was also published on the SSSI website for general access.

Results showed that there was very little change between the 2 surveys, with the average being about 10%. When the first survey was taken the average number of women in the spatial sciences was about 8.5% (Baldock and Bartolo).

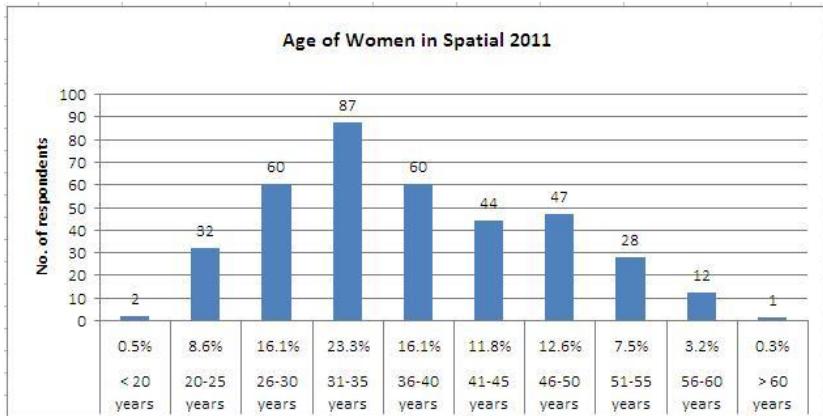


The following graphs show the results of the survey taken in 2011. The 2017 survey has been based on these topics with some modifications to allow for an international audience.

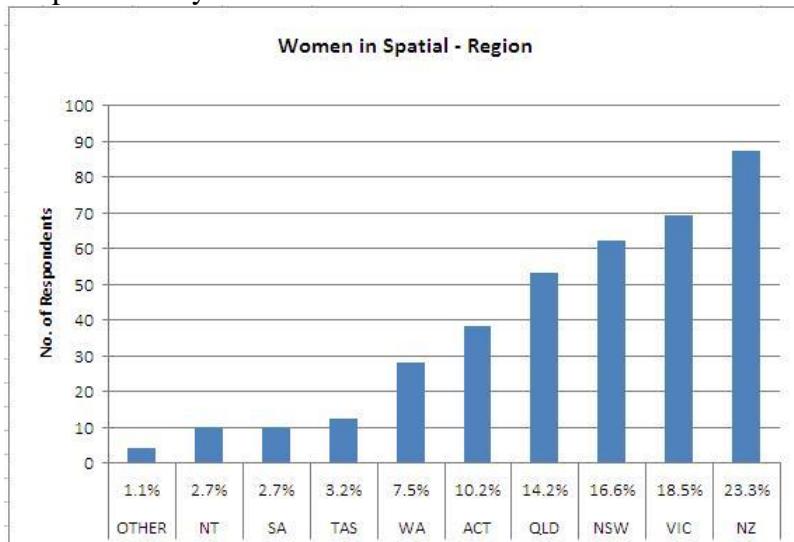
Demographics

Age

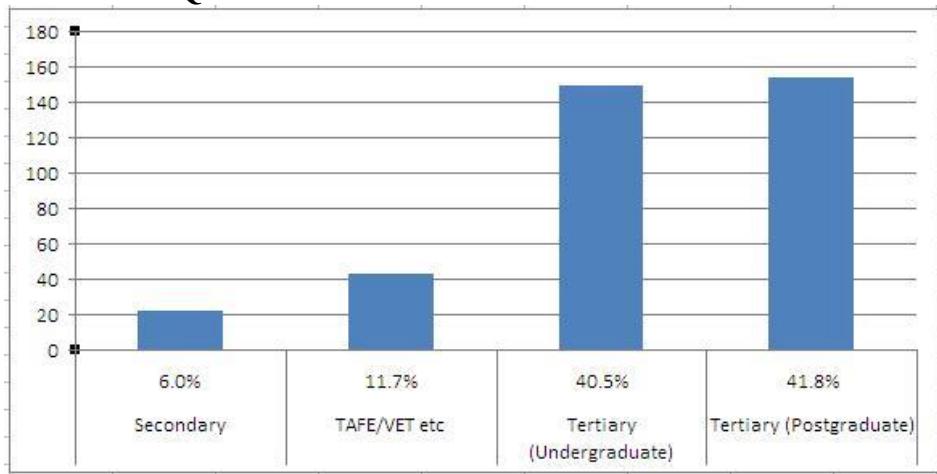
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Respondents by location



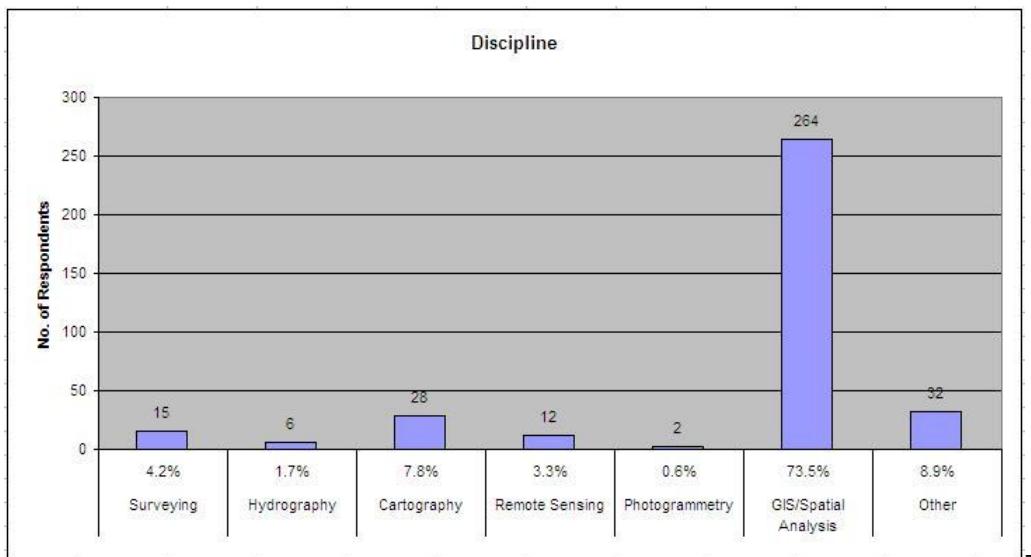
Educational Qualification



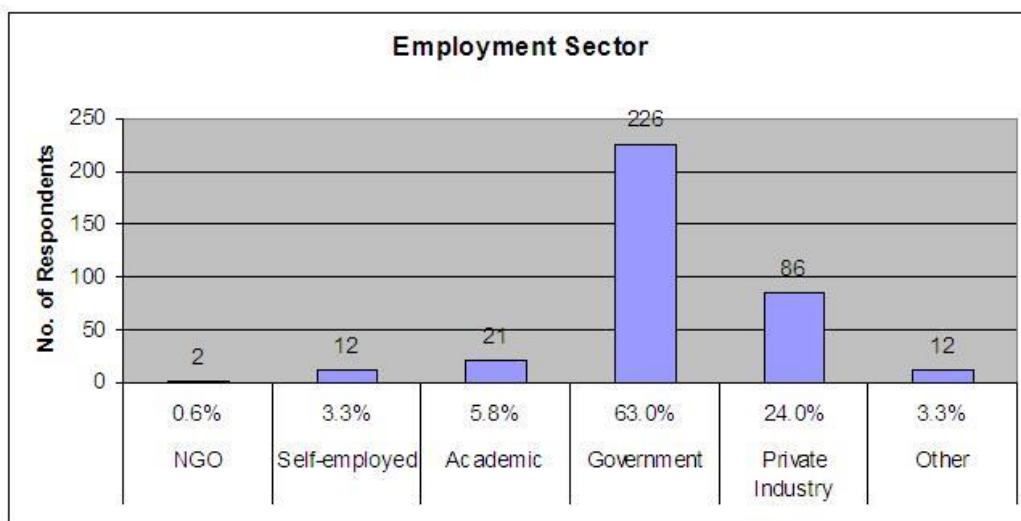
Workforce

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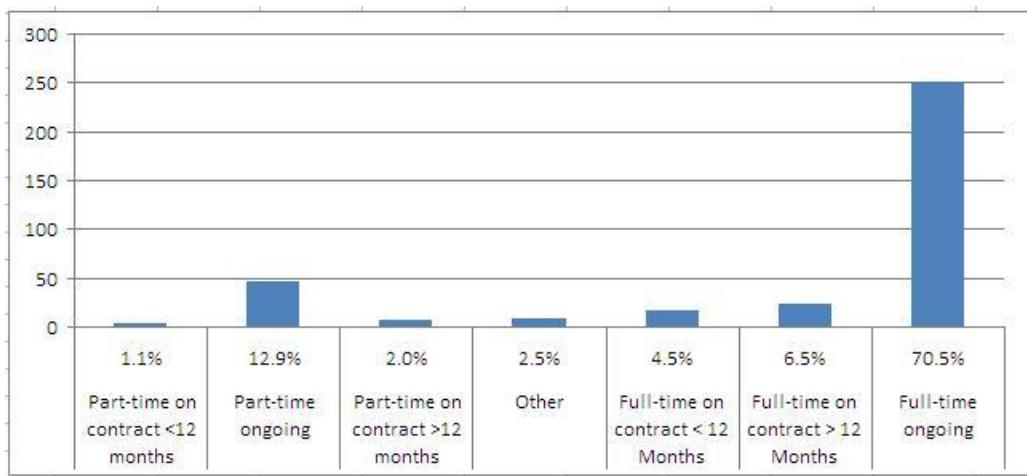


Employment sector – add no of respondents and name on graph

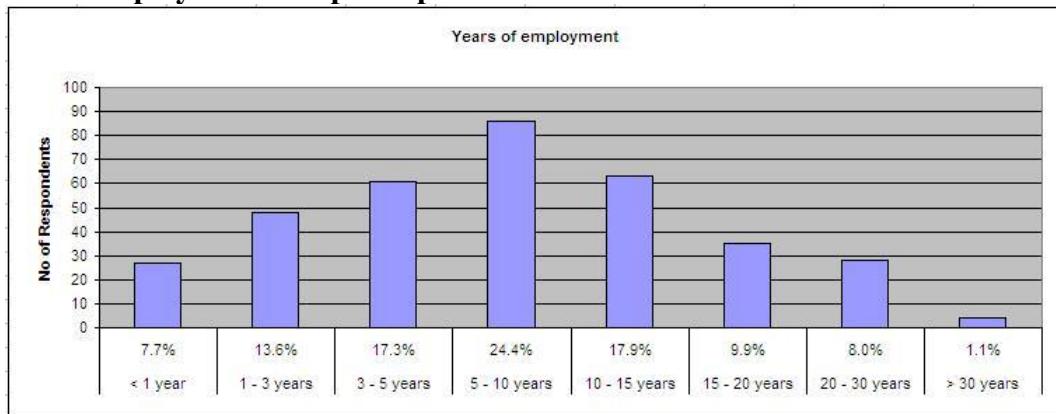


Employment mode

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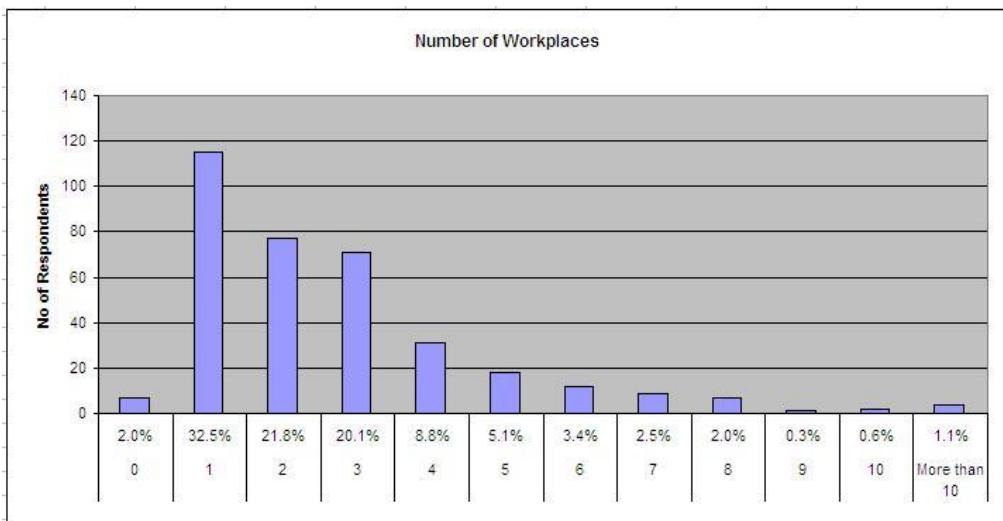
Years employed in the spatial profession



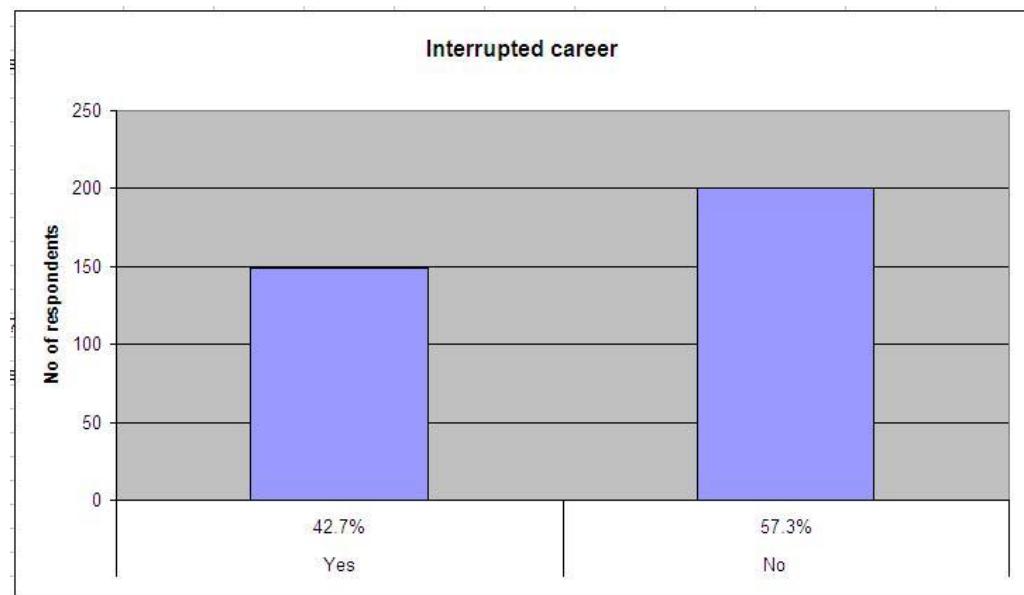
Workforce mobility

Number of workplaces

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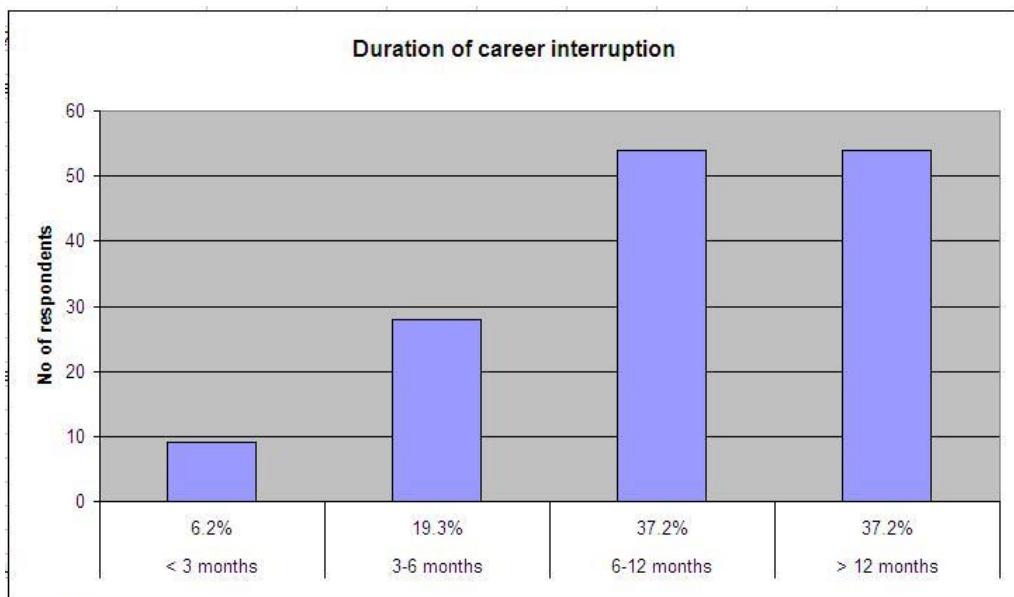


Interrupted career



Duration of career interruption

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4. WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Building on the suggestions that Leonie Newnham presented in her paper at the Christchurch working week in 2016:

Find out what is happening in your organisations and your country.

Fill out the survey – the link is below

Gather information

Work out what action you can take.

We are looking forward to some robust discussions and the lots of responses to this year's survey.

[Click here to complete the survey : The 2017 Women in Surveying Survey](#)

REFERENCES

Baldock, P. and Bartolo, R. 14-18 May 2007 , WOMEN IN THE SPATIAL SCIENCES: A SNAPSHOT OF GENDER COMPOSITION IN THE SPATIAL INDUSTRY . Proceedings of the Spatial Science Institute Biennial International Conference (SSC2007), Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, (non-refereed paper)

Newnham, Leonie , May 2016, Building a balanced gender workforce in a Land management organisation – a case study of gender equity work in DELWP, Victoria, Australia. Proceedings of the FIG Working week 2016, Christchurch May 2-6 2016.

FIG website – reference library

Spatial Sciences Institute Australia

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Robyn McCutcheon is the current chair of the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Insititue Women in Spatial group. She has a background in Cartography, GIS and Information management. She

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worked for the State Government of Victoria for many years but now works at a number of part time jobs including Executive Support and IT support for Spatial Industries Business Association. She is also a member of FIG Commission 1.

CONTACTS – Commission 1 WG members

Co chairs of Commission 1 WG 1.2:

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