

Name: Michelle Shi-Verdaasdonk

WIE National Committee Position: Chair



Education, Experience & Achievements

I was graduated as an Aeronautical Engineer. So far in my career I have worked in Automotive, food and domestic appliances industries. I have had a diverse range of roles, from a design engineer to what I am now specialised in advanced manufacturing and quality continuous improvement programs. I currently work at Electrolux as the Asia Pacific Continuous Improvement Manager, which is a very exciting role; it takes me to the different parts of Asia Pacific and I am constantly learning.

What led you to choose Engineering as a career?

I have always loved problem solving growing up, when I fixed the ceiling fan control at home when I was six, I knew I was onto something.

I also have deep fascination with the Space, that's why I ended up studying Aerospace Engineering.

What is it about Engineering that inspires you?

The logic way of thinking and the diverse of work you get to do.

What has been the high point in your career to date?

Been appointed by Minister Kim Carr onto the Future Manufacturing Industry Innovation Council was a delightful surprise for me. It not only demonstrated that my work in manufacturing and engineering leadership were recognised, it also allows me to contribute into the future of Australia manufacturing.

What has been your biggest challenge so far and how have you solved it?

Finding a good mentor. There have been many times in my career I just wanted to have a mentor to bounce my ideas with and get advises from. I think having a

good mentor is fundamental to a healthy and successful career. I am still searching for mine.

How have you managed your work and family commitments?

Gail Kelly, CEO of Westpac once said, “be in the moment.” That’s the exact spirit I use to balance work and family commitments. When I am with my family, it’s 100% them. Same as work, when I am at work; I am 100% dedicated to it. It’s working well for me to have a clear understanding of being in the moment of whatever I am doing.

Do you have any advice for women who are considering engineering as a career, or for those who are already Engineers?

Always give everything a go! There are so many opportunities out there and one leads to another. Don’t be afraid of challenges, give everything your best shot and you will have no regrets.