

## WAVE August Newsletter 2018

**Welcome to WAVE networking, events and advocacy 2018. We would love you to join with us in promoting and supporting women and girls in VET and adult education.**

### WAVE AGM

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday 27 October at 9.30 am in Canberra. Nominations will also be called for WAVE positions of:

National Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer, Ambassador, Rural and Regional Liaison, and State/Territory Convenors.

If you are interested in standing let us know. Further information will be sent out closer to the time.

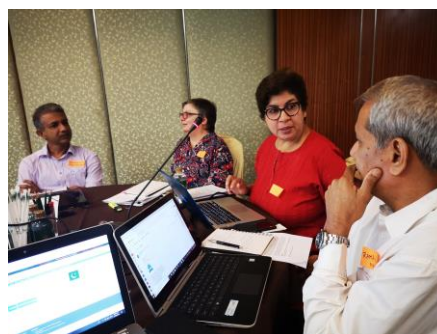
### Membership

We would love you to join as a financial member of WAVE. It is only \$50 a year and helps WAVE to undertake its advocacy, research and international work. You can join through the website, or:

- WAVE Direct Deposit BSB - 062151 Account Number - 10190480 – enter your name in description field
- Cheque: Made payable to *Women in Adult and Vocational Education Inc* posted to PO Box 4102 RNSH St Leonards 2065

Let me know if you would like an Invoice.

### WAVE Ambassador attends UNESCO meeting



WAVE Ambassador, Elaine Butler (in the background) attended UNESCO's 4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 in Bangkok in July. The focus was on the Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Elaine's presentation at the pre-meeting was titled: 'Gender equality and social inclusion in education and

training: leveraging Agenda 2030 goals and policies for inclusive futures through TVET'. There is a further report on the WAVE website.

## **Fact check: Has equality for Australian women relative to the world fallen in the last six or eight years?**

Equality for Australian women has worsened dramatically since the beginning of this decade, with high levels of sexual harassment in the workplace, the former President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, [Gillian Triggs](#), recently warned.

In 2017, Australia was ranked 35th on the overall ranking of 144 countries. The top three nations leading the index were all Nordic countries, with Iceland ranked first, Norway second and Finland third.

By way of comparison, New Zealand was ranked 9th, the United Kingdom was 15th, Canada 16th, and the United States was 49th.

Professor Triggs spoke of change "in the last six or eight years". Six years ago, in 2012, Australia ranked 25th in the overall gender gap ranking. Eight years ago, in 2010, it ranked 23rd.

Looking at the full 12 years that the index has been published, for broader context, Australia's ranking has worsened from 15th position in 2006, when there were 115 countries in the index, to 35th position in 2017, when there were 144.

## **Higher level VET qualifications drop sharply in latest statistics**

The number of higher level VET qualifications collapsed last year, according to the latest national snapshot of the sector.

The NCVER's Total VET Activity 2017 report shows a decline in training activity across the board, but most pronounced in certificate IV and diploma qualifications.

Total AQF program enrolments fell 4.6% to 2.8 million between 2016 and 2017, and are down 8.5% from more than 3 million in 2015.

In 2017, enrolments at diploma or higher level were down 18%, with the biggest falls in graduate diplomas (-27%) and diplomas (-22%). Certificate IV enrolments were down 8%. Certificate III was the only category to record an increase – up 2.6%.

Meanwhile, subject only enrolments, representing stand-alone units, modules or skill sets increased almost 20% to 5.2 million. International fee-for-service subject enrolments increased by 14.8%, nationally, and by 25% at private providers.

See NCVER's [Total VET students and courses 2017](#)

## Statistics from England

The following are statistics from the National Apprenticeship Service, the government agency that co-ordinates apprenticeships in England. In 2017/18 women accounted for 47.5% of starts in apprenticeships – 138,060.

### Apprenticeships 2016/17 by sector

Sector subject area	Female	Male	Totals
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	3,060	4,330	7,390
Arts, Media and Publishing	410	470	870
Business, Administration and Law	84,870	53,610	138,480
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	630	20,580	21,210
Education and Training	7,280	1,640	8,920
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	5,960	68,910	74,870
Health, Public Services and Care	113,100	25,750	138,850
Information and Communication Technology	2,450	13,020	15,470
Languages, Literature and Culture	-	-	-
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	5,150	8,640	13,790
Preparation for Life and Work	-	-	-
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	41,320	33,420	74,740
Science and Mathematics	130	170	290
Unknown	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>264,400</b>	<b>230,500</b>	<b>494,900</b>

## Lets turn conversation to action!

Work is well underway to organize the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum's (CAF-FCA) first-ever, *Supporting Women in Trades Conference*.

On November 6 & 7, 2018 at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront hotel. It will highlight the great initiatives, programs and strategies being undertaken by leading organizations across the country to help address the challenges faced by women working in the skilled trades.

Registration is being offered at the low price of \$199 + tax. **Register early** as space is limited.

## AVETRA Research Forum

This will be held on Friday 26 October at the Canberra Institute of Technology, Canberra ACT. The title is: New VET Research Perspectives. See AVETRA website for more details: [www.avetra.org.au](http://www.avetra.org.au)

**Keep up with WAVE campaigns through <http://wave.org.au/wave/>, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.**

Linda Simon    WAVE National Convenor