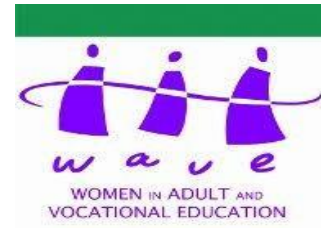


WAVE Newsletter

Federal Budget and election campaign 2016

16 May 2016



The Gender Lens

Today the National Foundation for Australian Women (NFAW) released the Gender Lens - Budget 2016-2017, a report on the recent Federal Budget seen through the eyes of what it delivers for women and girls. www.nfaw.org/?s=gender+lens

WAVE helped to put together the section on vocational education and training. The writers make the point that the VET sector is in crisis, but there is no money in the budget to help to address this problem. In fact there is reduced funding for ASQA. We continue to raise the needs of programs for women and girls in VET. There are recommendations arising from the report, including that:

- 21. The current review of the VET FEE-HELP Scheme involve wide consultation with student organisations, community, industry and respected private and public providers.***
- 22. Financial and criminal sanctions against fraudulent VET providers be adequate to restore public confidence in the VET sector and its regulatory framework.***
- 23. Any new National Partnership Agreement recognises the role of the major public provider, that is TAFE, as critical to industry, small business, regions and local communities in providing high level training, workforce development as well as foundation skills for disadvantaged learners in all equity groups entering or re-entering the workforce. TAFE needs to receive secure and stable funding into the future, and must be restored as the national yardstick for quality vocational education and training.***
- 24. The Government address concerns about its inequitable and discriminatory approach to industry skills training which has the unintended consequence of excluding women because the training priorities are industry driven and the sex segregation is entrenched in many of the industries accorded priority.***
- 25. Funding to the Australian Skill Quality Authority reflect the critical importance of its work in regulating the VET sector and ensuring that all students are protected from unscrupulous private training providers as well as guaranteeing the quality, industry relevance and standard of teaching and learning.***

WAVE Election Campaign

WAVE has again written to current Federal Members of Parliament, and will also write to the major parties and significant Independents, on the issue of making women and girls in VET and adult education an important election consideration. We say:


Part of WAVE's role is to advocate for women and girls in VET and adult education, and as such we wish to:

1. express concerns with the recent Federal budget and its lack of funding for VET and recognition of the needs of students;
2. ask you to ensure that these students are an important focus of the upcoming Federal election campaign with a policy that recognises access and equity as a key part of VET's role and the specific needs of women and girls in regional and remote areas; and
3. seriously address the issues raised by WAVE members in the attached postcard.

This is our election postcard. If you want copies to assist you in lobbying, let us know and we will provide both electronic and hard copies.

WAVE
Women in Adult & Vocational Education*
www.wave.org.au

Australian governments have international obligations & national economic imperatives to ensure women's equal access to & participation in education, training & decent work.




Australia's women and girls expect:

- Access to a strong, national, public vocational education & training system;
- Career advice, counselling & targeted support to undertake training for viable, well-paid, tenured jobs;
- Technical & trade training in all areas of skill shortages, emergent occupations & industries;
- Training provision should be high quality, affordable, inclusive & relevant for the diversity of all Australian women.

Australian women demand genuine commitment to full implementation of gender equity policies in education, training & employment.

*Find us by name on Facebook & LinkedIn
Twitter: @WAVE4VET



Keep up with our campaign through www.wave.org.au, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. If you require a Word version of the Newsletter, let us know.

Linda Simon

WAVE National Convenor