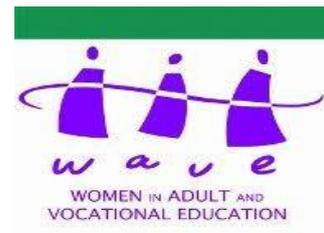


# WAVE Newsletter

## Federal Election 2016



23 June 2016

### What do the parties say?

The National Foundation for Australian Women (NFAW) has released a comparison of what the three major parties have had to say on a range of issues important to women, including vocational education and training. The link is: <http://www.nfaw.org/what-are-they-saying-to-women-election-2016/> (or accessible from the front page [www.nfaw.org](http://www.nfaw.org) Social Policy Blog).

WAVE also sent out letters and election postcards and received a number of supportive comments. The Government referred the letter through to the Department of Education and Training and we hope to catch up with them after the elections.

Comments from the others:

**Glenn Lazarus Team:** “We must adequately fund the sector to ensure women have fair and accessible opportunities to increase their skills and improve career options.”

**The Greens:** “The Greens are committed to the full implementation of gender equity policies in education, training and employment.”

**Federal Labor:** “In 2014 the most recent data shows that 47.7% of VET students in government funded programs were women. The system is critically important to women and must be a quality based system that delivers for them...TAFE plays a vital role in training women for our future workforce and retraining women returning to the workforce. It also plays an important role in providing second chance education.” Sharon Bird, Shadow Minister for Vocational Education

### WAVE AGM

WAVE Annual General Meeting will be held this year on 8 September, late afternoon by teleconference. At this meeting all WAVE positions are elected for the coming year. Have a look at the website if you are interested in joining us. Nomination forms will be available about a month before the AGM. You need to be a financial member of WAVE to stand for a position. We will also report on WAVE Finances for the year, and an overview of WAVE’s work. [www.wave.org.au](http://www.wave.org.au)

### Redesigning VET FEE-HELP

WAVE will make a submission to the Federal Government’s discussion paper on VET FEE-HELP. Given the current debacle of the operation of this income contingent loan scheme, it is important that we raise the issue of the effects of high fees and loans on many women

and girls wishing to study a VET qualification. If you would like to provide any advice by 29 June – send to [linda@wave.org.au](mailto:linda@wave.org.au)

## Indonesian Directors visit CDU



Professor Sue Shore (centre-back) with Indonesian Directors and CDU researchers

The week of 24 May, the International Graduate Centre of Education (IGCE) at Charles Darwin University, hosted five Indonesia Directors from the PERMAMPU NGO consortium based in various districts of Sumatra, Indonesia. This consortium works to eliminate poverty and strengthen grassroots women's leadership through better engagement with and protection of women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, particularly in rural and urban poor areas.

Director of the IGCE, [Professor Sue Shore](#) was delighted with the interest created across the campus and said the NGO focus on grassroots engagement offered salutary lessons for Australian NGOs and policy makers promoting engagement across early years learning through to adult and non-formal education services to support women and girls.

Sue Shore is one of our Northern Territory Convenors, and WAVE Ambassador Elaine Butler helped to organise the visit.

## Women's Major Group – Creating a Just and Sustainable Future

**The Women's Major Group was created as a result of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro which recognized women as one of the nine major groups of society whose participation in decision-making is essential for achieving sustainable development.**

The role of the Women's Major Group is to assure effective public participation of women's non-governmental groups in the UN policy processes on sustainable development.

The Women's Major Group contributes to the intergovernmental processes on Sustainable Development Goals and its link to the Post 2015 Development Agenda, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and other outcomes of the RIO processes.

The Women's Major Group is an open-ended group of organisations which work on women's rights, sustainable development and environment themes. There are over 400 list serve members of the Women's Major Group who are organisations and individuals from every region of the world, who work on gender, sustainable development and environment.

WAVE is one of the members. Go to: [www.womenmajorgroup.org](http://www.womenmajorgroup.org)

### **Higher Equity Summit – 26 September 2016 in Sydney**

Despite the rising prominence of women in higher education, issues such as equal professional opportunity, pay equity and under-representation in senior leadership remain challenges.

As Professor Jan Thomas recently wrote in *Campus Review* when discussing the need to find solutions to such problems: "In our rapidly changing society, nothing less than cultural change across society is required – changed attitudes to cultural norms for both men and women, in particular. Gender equality is not a women's issue and achieving it is not a question of 'getting men on board'. Men and women must be equal partners in this process."

If you are interested in discussion around many of these issues, look for the Campus Review Higher Equity Summit.

### **SALT Tradeswomen Australia Conference**

This conference is being held on 12 August at the Wollongong Town Hall in NSW, providing a unique opportunity for tradeswomen to network. On Thursday night is the launch of an exhibition honouring the work of women in trades during the second world war.

### **Future Now – Collaborate – Innovate**

This conference is being conducted by the Victorian TAFE Association, 18-19 August at RACV City Club, Bourke Street, Melbourne. [www.vta.vic.edu.au](http://www.vta.vic.edu.au)

**Keep up with our campaigns through [www.wave.org.au](http://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