



WAVE February 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.

International Women's Day 2018

Leave no woman behind.

International Women's Day is celebrated around the world on March 8th. The UN theme for International Women's Day 2018 is "Leave no woman behind", examining the vital role that women play in humanitarian and disaster planning and response. Each event will explore the impacts disasters have on women and girls, and highlight the important roles that women play in risk reduction, rebuilding, rehabilitation and peace processes.

WAVE urges you to join IWD events in your areas

WAVE congratulates Jozefa Sobski on receiving the honour of Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia, awarded for significant service to women's rights and migrant advocacy, and to higher education and skills based training.

Jozefa has been a strong supporter of WAVE as well as vocational education and training.

Perfect for a Woman

Victoria University recently launched the research report, *Perfect for a Woman: Increasing the participation of women in electrical trades* by, Emeritus Professor Anne Jones (VU), Emeritus Professor Berwyn Clayton (VU), Dr Naomi Pfitzner (RMIT) and Honorary Fellow Hugh Guthrie (VU).

Employers, especially those who have recruited electrical tradeswomen, told researchers that they notice the benefit, including a more productive workplace culture and improved employee wellbeing. Employers say that women are better communicators, more attentive to detail and better organised. As one employer put it:

Women have a can-do attitude; no one can tell me I can't do this, kind of thing...So I think there is a lot of attention to detail and they are certainly better organised and you can see that they are well ahead of - sometimes ahead of their male counterparts because of these skills - 'David', employer.

The apprentices and tradeswomen told researchers that they love their work, especially the satisfaction that comes from solving interesting technical problems and completing meaningful projects. They also value above average earnings and opportunities for developing a long-term career. The report's title was inspired by electrical tradeswoman, 'Megan' who has worked for a multinational security systems company for five years. She loves the combination of practical work and intellectual stimulation. Compared with more physically demanding trades Megan sees electrical work as '...kind of perfect for a woman.'

The report concluded that past interventions had failed for a number of reasons, most significantly:

- A too narrow focus on just one aspect of the problem e.g. promoting trades to young women without encouraging employers to take on female apprentices nor ensuring that workplaces provide tradeswoman-friendly clothing, tools and other infrastructure.
- Failure to actively and sufficiently address workplace cultures and behaviours when these are disrespectful of women.

From ill-fitting clothing, to hours that don't accommodate working mothers, many women feel excluded from trades workplaces where the infrastructure is designed around men's physical capabilities and availability:

The company I am in now, they just told me no, you don't get a female shirt. That means I have a size small man's shirt that is so big - and I feel is dangerous because it can get caught in things - 'Chloe', tradeswoman.

In some workplaces, overly competitive, aggressive behaviour and disrespect of women make female apprentices feel unsupported and scared. 'Jen', a tradeswoman with nine years' experience almost gave up her apprenticeship after becoming "worn down" by harassment, co-workers not trusting her to do tasks, co-workers making sexist comments and management who are complicit in their colleagues' bad behaviour. Jen now works for a large infrastructure company and is active in networks to support women in electrical trades.

The report proposes a new model involving tradeswomen's networks, employers, unions and other industry organisations, training providers, schools and governments. It recommends that stakeholders work together on a program of co-ordinated, collaborative, sustained and mutually reinforcing actions to enable more women to work in male-dominated trades. Importantly, there is an urgent need to develop resources to assist employers to develop tradeswoman-friendly workplace cultures and behaviours.

You can read or download the full report from the Victoria University's [research repository](#).

'Are We There Yet? -- A Global Look at Women's Journey to Leadership'

Date: Wednesday 7th February 2018

Time: arrive from 11.30am: lunch served at 12pm; address concludes at 1.30pm.

Registration: <https://www.npc.org.au/speakers/irene-natividad/>

The 50/50 by 2030 Foundation, IGPA, University of Canberra, is proud to host Irene Natividad, President of the Global Summit of Women, at the National Press Club on 7 February, and we would be delighted if you would join us.

Australia won a competitive bid to stage the 2018 Global Summit of Women in Sydney 25-28 April, and the Press Club event will be Irene's first appearance in Australia. Her address 'Are We There Yet? A Global Look at Women's Journey to Leadership', will be broadcast live on ABC TV.

The Global Summit of Women - named the 'Davos' of women - is an annual international gathering of around 2,000 business leaders focused on women's economic empowerment.

To join us for this important and timely address please book directly through the NPC website link. <https://www.npc.org.au/speakers/irene-natividad/>

Inaugural VET Practitioner Research Conference

26-27 April 2018 - VDC, 379 Collins Street, Melbourne

In 2018, the Australian VET Research Association (**AVETRA**) in partnership with the VET Development Centre (**VDC**) and the Victorian TAFE Association (**VTA**), will hold Australia's **first** VET Practitioner Research Conference.

VET practitioners and professionals – teachers, trainers, designers, assessors, managers – are invited to present on their research (short and longer presentation slots will be available), participate in research capability development workshops, and network with other practitioner researchers. Or you can simply attend, learn from others, and join in the discussions.

The workshops are on Day 1 (afternoon only); and Day 2 is a full day with shorter and longer research-based papers.

Email: AVETRA2018PracResConf@mail.com for information on presenting

Cost is \$225; or \$25 for AVETRA members

More details at :

<https://www.avetra.org.au/pages/inaugural-avetra-vet-practitioner-research-conference-2018.html>

To register for the conference, use the following link: <http://www.cvent.com/d/ytqf48>

NoFrills2018 - Call for presentations now open

Don't miss your opportunity to present at the first international ['No Frills' conference](#), to be held in Sydney on 15-17 August 2018.

NCVER is seeking presentations that explore the theme, **Skills for a global future: working and learning together**, and further our understanding of the issues it raises.

[Submissions](#) are open from now until Friday 16 March 2018, so get your abstract in!

Scholarships on offer

A range of [scholarships](#) valued at \$1200 are available to Australian presenters to assist with attendance costs. The scholarships cover full conference registration as well as \$700 to support travel, accommodation and other related sundries.

World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics 2018 World Congress

The Call for Speaker Proposals is now open for the **World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP) 2018 World Congress**. The Congress will be held in **Melbourne, Australia from 8-10 October 2018** and is expected to attract over 700 delegates. The 2018 Congress theme, **Preparing for the Skills Future, Now** will make a difference to the outcomes of millions of vocational and professional students world-wide.

Leaders and practitioners from around the world of Professional and Technical Education and Training, including international experts, institute leaders, board members, senior managers, emerging leaders, teaching staff, business development managers, policy makers, government officials, researchers, and industry representatives are now invited to submit a speaker proposal. Proposals must be received by 19 February 2018. Go to www.tda.edu.au for further information and to add yourself to the database to receive Congress e-newsletters and updates. Registration is also now open and the ultra early bird registration discounts close on July 4, 2018.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda reporting structure is primarily focused on a system of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), with each country presenting at least twice by 2030. Australia is intending to present its first VNR at the UN High Level Political Forum in New York in July 2018. Australia's VNR will report on progress against all 17 SDGs. Read more below: <http://www.education.gov.au/2030-agenda-sustainable-development>

“Girls: Breaking Barriers” Statement to the Commission on the Status of Women 2018

Girls: Breaking Barriers

<http://equalrights4womenworldwide.blogspot.com.au/2017/11/girls-breaking-barriers.html>

The empowerment of all girls, including those in rural areas, is critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but extreme poverty, systemic inequalities, and discriminatory practices persist. Despite the commitments enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), among other laws, resolutions and statements on the empowerment and rights of the girl child, rural girls still face barriers to education, health, and safety. These barriers prevent them from breaking the cycle of poverty, fully enjoying their human rights, and contributing meaningfully to the achievement of the SDGs. The Working Group on Girls, a coalition of seventy non-governmental organizations, with strong grassroots engagement with girls in all regions of the world, urges the international community, including the United Nations and all Member States, to ensure that rural girls are not left behind, and that they are meaningfully engaged in policies that enable them to reach their full potential.

As the Secretary-General noted in his report on The Girl Child (A/72/218), Member States will need disaggregated data to review progress made towards commitments in Agenda 2030 and other treaties and resolutions, and to ensure that rural girls are included meaningfully in the implementation of the universal, integrated and indivisible development agenda.

Women and Leadership Australia

Early to mid-last year a pool of scholarship funding was provisioned for women working in the adult and vocational education sector to undertake a range of leadership development programs. As a result, a number of women are currently participating in or have already graduated in these courses, empowering their career pathway within the industry.

Women & Leadership Australia would like to build further on the gender equality momentum that was generated throughout 2017. An additional round of scholarship funding has been allocated for women in the adult and vocational education sector.

The fee support opportunity provides women with scholarships of between \$3,000 and \$8,000 but has to be allocated prior to the end of March 2018.

At this stage, Expressions of Interest are being sourced until Friday, 16th March via this link: www.wla.edu.au/education

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

Linda Simon WAVE National Convenor