



## WAVE June 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.

### Gender Lens on the Budget 2018/19

WAVE was again involved in analysing the impact of the 2018/19 Federal Budget on women and girls in vocational education and training. The full 'Gender Lens on the Budget' report is on the WAVE website and can be accessed here:

<http://wave.org.au/wave/gender-lens-on-the-budget-2018-19/>

### Vocational education and training

This budget continued cuts to vocational education and training, not recognising the impact of cuts to funding, marketization and falling enrolments on the sector. Four recommendations were made as part of this significant annual report:

#### Recommendation 24

The Government should clarify the reasons why there has been no funding allocated through the Skilling Australians Fund, and that the budget allocations be used to support vocational education and training opportunities this year. This should include increased programs for women and girls, including in skills shortage areas.

#### Recommendation 25

The Government should allocate sufficient funding to the states and territories to address the serious decline in student enrolments in VET. According to the Mitchell Institute (2018), if the ongoing decline in student enrolments is not reversed, VET will become a residual sector by 2031.

#### Recommendation 26

The Government recognise and act on the significant role of TAFE in delivering a range of programs for women and girls.

#### Recommendation 27

The Government and the Assistant Minister should address continuing concerns about the discriminatory outcomes resulting from its approach to funding skills training focused on apprenticeships and skills shortages, without any positive funding intervention to redress the sex segregation entrenched in many industries.

If you would like to be involved in this ongoing campaign, do send us an email.

## **Women Stand-Up for WEL**

### **27 June, Paddington RSL, NSW**

Support WEL's Comedy Night and stand up for WEL as a feminist lobby group dedicated to women's equality, good women's policy and effective activism. There is a great line-up including Jean Kittson and Gretel Killeen. See the details on the WEL website:

<https://www.wel.org.au/>

## **Case Study from TAFE SA**

WAVE submitted a case study to Office for Women as part of Australia's Voluntary National Review on progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The case study was for SDGs 4,5 & 8 and focussed on the Women's Education Advisory Group (WEAG) case study on "TAFE SA Certificates in Women's Education: Certificate II, III and IV in Women's Education". It is on the Office for Women website under 'Career Development' (see: <https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/office-women/sustainable-development-goal-5-gender-equality-case-studies>)

## **The female tradie shortage: why real change requires a major cultural shift**

<http://theconversation.com/the-female-tradie-shortage-why-real-change-requires-a-major-cultural-shift-97091>

The number of women in the manual trades in Australia has barely budged in the last 20 years. While lower-skilled and lower-paid jobs like hairdressing have increased the number of women being employed, manual trades like electricians, carpenters and mechanics have remained at incredibly low levels.

Women make up just 3% of those employed in the electrotechnology and telecommunications trades, and only 1% of those working in construction, engineering and automotive trades.

## **Housing Unaffordability**

WAVE signed up to the resolution carried at the May meeting of the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) in relation to housing unaffordability. The resolution is being sent to the Treasurer, Minister for Women, Office for Women, Minister for Housing, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, and their Opposition counterparts.

*We are deeply concerned that the budget maintains the practice of successive Australian Federal governments in neglecting to make sufficient provision and policy for housing. Housing unaffordability has devastating and widespread social and economic effects on the community, in particular on women and their families.*

*We call on the Australian Government to rectify its neglect by:*

- *Increasing capital funding for the NHHA;*
- *Implementing tax reform to reduce investment pressure on the housing market; and*
- *Ensuring sufficient coverage of the Remote Housing Partnership Agreement to include WA, SA and Qld.*

The statistics that this resolution were based on can be found in the following article:

<http://www.powertopersuade.org.au/blog/a-tale-of-two-housing-systems-how-the-federal-budget-could-support-womens-housing-needs/7/5/2018>

## Join the ACOSS campaign

You may be interested in joining the ACOSS campaign around 'Raising the Rate of Newstart', an issue affecting many women. The details are below:

**Could you live on \$39 per day?** People on Newstart are forced to live well below the poverty line while they look for paid work. Newstart hasn't been increased in real terms in 24 years. Today almost one million people are subsisting on \$39 a day. Even the minority of people on Newstart who get [additional payments](#) (like rent assistance or family payments) live in deep poverty. It is impossible to pay for housing, food, power, clothing, transport, healthcare, the phone – and to look for paid work.

\$39 a day is not enough. We ask you to [donate](#) to help us Raise the Rate. Please pass this email on to your contacts as well - asap. We are aiming to raise at least \$200,000 by June 30. Public support has been growing and for the first time in two decades we think there's a real opportunity for change in the lead up to the next election. But we need to maintain the momentum. Until the Federal Parliament agrees to **Raise the Rate**, the lives of people living in poverty will not change.

**Raising the Rate of Newstart and related payments is the single most effective measure to reduce poverty and inequality in Australia.** For details of why this is and how this could be achieved, [see here](#).

## How to improve gender equality in the workplace – an international perspective

This article from Phumzile Mlaambo-Ngcuka, the UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, reflects on some of the issues around gender equality in the workplace, and UN Women's latest report 'Turning Promises into Action'.

<https://shar.es/andK4u>

This op-ed was originally published in the EVE webmagazine.

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

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