



WAVE Newsletter May 2016

WAVE Conference 2016



The WAVE Conference is over for another year. If you were lucky enough to attend, I hope you enjoyed it. If you didn't get there this year, we hope to see you next year around the same time.



The photos show just a few of our interesting speakers, and you can find out more about them on our website www.wave.org.au. You will also find copies of some of the presentations.

Dr Susana Saffu said in her presentation on African Migrant women in the Northern Territory, that: *Australia's and indeed the world's population is growing more diverse as a result of immigration. It is therefore imperative for us to uphold adult education's long-standing tradition and commitment to 'social inclusion' by working towards, and advocating for a more inclusive adult education that focuses on the empowerment of marginalised learners including women and racialised minorities.*

Sally Thompson from the Australian Education Union challenged us all when she said: *In fact I would say that the primary role of feminism at the moment has to be to halt the assault on our public services and institutions because women overwhelmingly pay the price for each new neo-liberal experiment.*

Did you know, said **Dr Anu Mundkur from Flinders University**, that in more than half the world's countries, female education rates are now similar -- or greater -- than men, **BUT** that women's employment rate is 30 percent lower than men's, that women face rising job segregation, that the share of women employed in the relatively high-paying industrial sector compared to men, has dropped 20 percentage points since 1990, and that the political representation of women is abysmally under represented at 25 percent.

Michelle Circelli from NCVER told us that: *A gender wage gap of 16—18% has persisted in Australia for the past 20 years despite the equal pay decision by the industrial court in 1972. It is well understood that Australia has a highly gender segregated workforce and that many female-dominated industry sectors are poorly paid compared to male-dominated industries; hairdressing, childcare and aged care sectors are prime examples. Even within the same fields of education females generally earn less than males.*

Marian Baird from Sydney University set the scene at the conference, and also challenged us to take up the issues of education and equity as election issues. She outlined the **Gaps at a Glance**

	Males	Females
Labour force participation	78.3%	65.1%
Employed part-time	14.6%	43.8%
Employed part-time with child <5	7.7%	62.2%
Average wage	100%	82%
Without paid leave entitlement	10%	20%
Bachelors Degree	30%	40%
Order of Australia	70%	30%

If you would like to read more on our social media, go to: : <https://storify.com/KiraVClarke/wave-conference-2016>. With thanks to Kira Clarke.

WAVE and the elections

A strong message from the conference was the need to use the upcoming Federal elections to advocate for women and girls in adult education. WAVE will again take its election messages to our Federal MPs and candidates, and asks you to do the same. We can provide you with Postcards if you would like. Contact linda@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 and trade training in all areas of skill shortages, emergent occupations and 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.

Membership

WAVE has paid and unpaid membership, which you can access via the website. www.wave.org.au

If you would like to become a paid WAVE supporter or renew your annual membership, you now have the chance to pay \$50 to take your membership through to the end of June 2017. By becoming a paid supporter you are able to stand for the Executive committee, but more importantly to assist in the advocacy and research work that WAVE undertakes. Now more than ever it is critical to take up the issues for women and girls, and a strong quality adult and vocational education system.

25th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills'

Register now for the **25th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills'**, 4 – 6 July 2016, at CQUniversity, Rockhampton North campus.

The engaging program features over 40 presentation and poster sessions, highlighting three research themes:

- **Equity:** supporting diversity through promoting inclusive training opportunities for all Australians
- **Engagement:** students, providers, employers and government working together to improve access, participation and outcomes from training
- **Evolution:** developing a skilled and flexible workforce to adapt to rapid technological change in the workplace, and to improve national competitiveness.

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) is delighted to co-host the conference with CQUniversity.

Register online now to secure your place: <http://www.ncver.edu.au/nofrills2016.html>

Save the Working Women's Centres

The Federal Government has not committed to funding Working Women's Centres after Christmas 2016. If they were to close, thousands of vulnerable women would have nowhere to turn when they had a problem at work. The petition refers to June this year, but due to the action of so many supporters, there has been an extension of funding until the end of the year. More signatures are needed to show the Government that we care.

Please help by [signing the petition](#), [contacting the Minister](#), or tweet with #saveworkingwomenscentres

Write for REDRESS! A call for contributions

Would you like to share your story of gender justice work through publication in the Association of Women Educators journal? Contact AWE if you are interested and would like feedback on an idea or support for editing a piece. Visit the website for more information, guidelines for contributors, and to view sample copies of the journal <http://www.awe.asn.au/drupal/content/redress>

Linda Simon

WAVE National Convenor - linda@wave.org.au