



## WAVE Newsletter November 2015

### WAVE Conference 20 April 2016

Planning is well underway for the WAVE conference at Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE NSW, St Leonards campus, on Wednesday 20 April 2016. A conference agenda will be out soon, with details of our speakers and discussions, around the theme: 'Women: Education, Empowerment, Equality. A New Agenda?' We have speakers focusing on the new global agenda as well as the issues closer to home and of concern to those of us involved in adult and vocational education.

The WAVE conference delegates will also have the chance to join with delegates to the AVETRA conference on the evening of 20 April for the AVETRA conference reception.

There will be a fee reduction for WAVE members to the WAVE conference, so it might be a good time to join up to WAVE now and help support our research and advocacy work. Go to the website [www.wave.org.au](http://www.wave.org.au).

### AVETRA Conference

For those of you passionate about the need for good research and innovation in the VET and adult education sectors, you still have time to put in an Abstract to deliver a paper at the AVETRA conference in Sydney at the Northern Sydney TAFE campus. This conference follows our WAVE conference on 21 and 22 April.

Go to [www.avetra.org.au](http://www.avetra.org.au) to submit an Abstract. Registrations will also be open soon.

### Sign the Petition on Women's Refuges

You have the opportunity to sign the following important petition from the Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) to send to the Prime Minister around funding of women's refuges. This is the online [petition to the Prime Minister](#).

*Women's refuges save lives. We request that the Prime Minister act swiftly to agree to a long-term secure separate national funding program for women's refuges to ensure women and children escaping family and domestic violence have a safe haven and access to specialist services to enable them to rebuild their lives.*

### WAVE intern Zulaikha at ASPBAE course in Vietnam

Our wonderful intern Zulaikha Shihab has had the chance to participate in the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) Basic Leadership Development Course in Vietnam. The Leadership course is an interactive learning program. Zulaikha tells

us that this year there are 34 participants from 16 countries, and that participants work in the area of education and lifelong learning in countries such as Japan, Fiji, Myanmar, Mongolia, India, Afghanistan, New Zealand and Tajikistan, to name just a few.

Read more about Zulaikha's research 'Gender and Education Post 2015' on the WAVE website.

### **Gender Disaggregated data**

Following NCVET's recent release of data relating to Total VET Activity, WAVE and a number of other organisations again raised the issue around the publication of gender disaggregated data in NCVET reports. We wrote to NCVET and relevant Ministers, making a number of points about the need for such data including: *the Australian government requires the data around gender that NCVET is able to provide in order to ensure it meets international commitments, and the VET community including organisations such as WAVE require the data in order to advocate for the education and training needs of women and girls.*

We have received a letter from NCVET in reply and look forward to working with them on this issue.

### **WAVE submissions and advocacy**

WAVE has recently submitted two submissions, one to the Senate Inquiry into VET FEE-HELP and one to the review of employment services.

In our submission around VET FEE-Help, we outlined ways in which women and girls had been taken advantage of by some for-profit VET providers, and provided a number of recommendations:

1. WAVE supports the proposed amendments to the VET FEE-HELP Reform Bill, as referred to this inquiry, especially in relation to ensuring that all RTOs operate in an ethical way and that the Government has the ability to stop and prosecute those brokers and RTOs that seek to take advantage of those students who are not aware of or able to work their way through the increasing complexities of the VET system;
2. WAVE supports legislation to ensure all RTOs have proper entry procedures for all students into their courses. This includes counselling and assessment procedures to ensure that students are placed in the right qualifications and that extra resources can be allocated if students need support for language, literacy and numeracy help, and if they require professional disability support;
3. WAVE seeks government funding to ensure that a wide range of affordable access and pathways courses are provided for students, and that there is targeted funding for women's courses;
4. WAVE supports the appointment of an Ombudsman or consumer watchdog for students to ensure that any complaints around their recruitment, education or fees, are quickly and fairly dealt with.

*In the employment services review, WAVE made the point that: in our experience and that of many of the students whom we teach, we believe that the employment services experience has become much worse. In a similar way to the effect of the marketised system on vocational education and training, the impact on jobseekers has been that services have become more inconsistent, quality control is an issue and that, given the increased marketisation of the system, some contractors have been concerned rather with the profits they can make, than the actual support and viable outcomes for their 'clients' – the jobseekers. This includes either contractors operating their own training companies or having links to training companies that they insist jobseekers use.*

The submissions can be accessed on the WAVE website.

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