



## Women in Adult and Vocational Education Newsletter

Issue Number: 3

Year: 2020



**WAVE** is a national network of women involved in VET, adult education and the broad field of work-related education and training. WAVE provides seminars & workshops, research, policy advocacy and advice, as well as networking on an international, national and state basis. We are supported within each state by local representation that in turn contributes collaboratively to national events and governance. Web: [wave.org.au](http://wave.org.au) E: [wave@wave.org.au](mailto:wave@wave.org.au)

### Welcome

Welcome to our September 2020 WAVE Newsletter. We hoped that we might have been able to hold our forum later this year, but this is not yet possible. Instead this Newsletter outlines an October VET webinar.

WAVE, along with the women's and disabilities networks, has been most saddened by the loss of our long time Executive member, Sue Salhouse. Sue was an amazing activist, with a warm sense of humour, who will be missed by many. We are planning two awards in memory of Sue, and these are briefly highlighted here. Do go to our website – [wave@wave.org.au](http://wave@wave.org.au) to find out more about Sue.

If you are interested in making a donation to WAVE to support such awards, then you can do so through the WAVE website: <http://wave.org.au/wave/donations/>

Have you ever thought about giving a bit of your time to working with other women in WAVE? The WAVE AGM will be held on Friday 16 October, and WAVE Executive positions are open for nomination. Let us know if you are interested.

Join us to discuss these issues further.

Linda Simon National Convenor [wave@wave.org.au](mailto:wave@wave.org.au)



## Gender and COVID-19

### COVID's toll on women – why Australia needs a Gender Impact Statement

The data is mounting, the evidence is in. The coronavirus has entangled Australian women in a complex web of negative economic impacts. As it urgently reshapes national policy responses, the federal government must produce a Gender Impact Statement to fully understand and address the specific and intersecting disadvantages that are being experienced by women right now.

<http://www.broadagenda.com.au/home/we-need-a-gender-lens-on-public-policy-more-than-ever/>

### State perspective on COVID-19 impact

GENVic, Victoria's peak body for gender equity, women's health and the prevention of violence against women has noted that women have been hardest hit by the Covid19 pandemic with higher unemployment rates, less access to jobkeeper, greater responsibility for caring and unpaid work and significantly poorer mental health outcomes. However, Government investment in strategies to help women has lagged behind other economic stimulus and support.

*"If we don't do this deep work to recover gender equity, you can expect a two-lane economic recovery – where Australian men are on a fast-track, given the green light of public investment, while women are stuck in the slow lane – short changed, under-valued and going nowhere." – Tanja Kovac, GENVic CEO*

<https://www.genvic.org.au/resources/covid-19-resources/>

### Girls to pick a trade

Young women have been hit hard by pandemic job losses. Fiona McDonald and Susan Alberti say that encouraging young women to consider a trade is the answer.

[www.smh.com.au/national/victoria/interior-design-i-hated-it-push-to-boost-tiny-number-of-women-in...](http://www.smh.com.au/national/victoria/interior-design-i-hated-it-push-to-boost-tiny-number-of-women-in...)

## Sue Salthouse

A committed disability advocate, feminist and long time member of WAVE Executive representing the ACT.



Sue lived a remarkable life recognised in her award as 2020 ACT Senior Australian of the Year. She will be very much missed by WAVE members who worked with her over the years, her loss is beyond words. Her contributions, clear informed thinking, passion and sisterhood are profoundly appreciated and respected with love and gratitude.

Two projects are proposed in memory of Sue, with a particular focus on women and disabilities.

The first is in WA, where a 'Young Women with Disability Employment Network WA' will be trialled through a project officer and support of our WA members.

The second relates to both a webinar as part of AVETRA's OctoberVET and a replacement for our 2020 forum.

WAVE will host an interactive OctoberVET Zoom webinar focusing on gender, disability, VET and careers.

**Thursday 29 October 2020 at 1.30 pm (AEDT)**

Speakers include: Dr Lizzie Knight – Victoria University and Secretary AVETRA, and Jen Cousins TAFE SA; Dr Karen O'Reilly-Briggs – La Trobe University; and Michelle Circelli, Senior Researcher NCVET.



Once you register through Eventbrite: [Women learning, women working: how disability and gender shape careers](#), we will send you the Zoom details.

The small charge \$20 is to help raise funds for a grant in memory of our WAVE colleague, Sue Salthouse. This grant will be awarded to a practitioner/researcher to support research and a paper to be delivered at the AVETRA conference 2021 on 'gender and disability'.

We look forward to joining with you at this event

## Imagining a Feminist Federal Budget



Helen Dalley-Fisher and Romy Listo have written this piece for Broad Agenda.

*“Every year in the lead up to the federal budget, NGOs, businesses, and think tanks make submissions to the government about what should be included. With a government focused on deficit reduction, in recent years organisations have tended to put forward small, achievable proposals which focus on policy ideas that could make a major impact with minimal investment? What a difference a pandemic makes.”*

<http://www.broadagenda.com.au/home/imagining-a-feminist-federal-budget/>

## Submissions

WAVE contributed to a number of submissions through the year, including through the National Women's Alliances. We also collaborated with Gender Equity Victoria and the Gender Equity Accredited Training Project from Women's Health Victoria on two submissions. One to the Skills for Victoria Review and another to the Productivity Commission's review of the National Training Agreement.

We made the following recommendations.

1. For students and community, that reforms result in an intersectional gender lens being applied to VET, that engages the diversity of all women. This needs to be applied to VET policy to ensure VET delivery and the systems around it, deliver equality for all, socially and economically.

We further advocate that the participation of women across VET needs to be further investigated to inform committed action for change.

2. That the culture and structures of VET as a sector and a workforce needs to be changed. We recommend an approach that includes appointing a Gender Equality Advisor who works for and within the Department in partnership with the incoming Public Sector Gender Equity Commissioner to implement the Gender Equity Act in Victoria's skill system and government funded providers, with a particular emphasis on TAFE as the key enabler for both economic *and* social change.

Full submissions can be found here: <https://whv.org.au/our-focus/gender-equity>



## WAVE AGM

The WAVE AGM will be held on Friday 16 October at 4.00 pm (AEDT). It will be conducted through Zoom. Let us know if you are interested in attending.

### Call for Nominations

If you are interested in being part of the WAVE Executive, you can stand at this year's AGM. There are a number of national positions as well as state/territory convenors. Have a look at the WAVE website [wave.org.au](http://wave.org.au) to see who our current Executive Members are. WAVE is happy to create shared positions. Add your voice and ideas to a range of issues impacting women and girls in adult and vocational education, through WAVE.

Contact us at [wave@wave.org.au](mailto:wave@wave.org.au).

## Joining WAVE

WAVE membership: individual \$50, Organisation \$120

WAVE does not receive any other funding; membership funds assist WAVE to continue its advocacy work.

All Executive Members must be financial members.

## Other matters

The National Skills Commission (NCS) has just released their report on Emerging Occupations. It makes interesting reading.

<https://www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au/digital-marketing-analysts>

### Rebuilding TAFE critical to economic recovery

New research from the Centre for Future Work An Investment in Productivity and Inclusion finds despite chronic underfunding and failed market-led VET policies, Australia's historic investment in the TAFE system continues to generate an enormous and ongoing dividend to the Australian economy. The TAFE system supports \$92.5 billion in annual economic benefits through the direct operation of TAFE institutes, higher incomes and productivity generated by the TAFE-credentialed workforce, and reduced social benefits costs.

[https://www.futurework.org.au/rebuilding\\_tafe\\_critical\\_to\\_economic\\_recovery](https://www.futurework.org.au/rebuilding_tafe_critical_to_economic_recovery)