



WAVE in 2014

As a WAVE member you're part of a national network that advocates on behalf of women and girls in adult and vocational education and training. Your membership lends strength to our advocacy.

A turbulent year

The year since the Federal elections has been particularly difficult for women's groups and vocational and adult education. The 2014 Federal Budget delivered a hard blow cutting so many welfare programs that supported women, and also most of the VET programs that had an equity focus such as WELL programs. Both the Australian Workforce Productivity Agency (AWPA) and the National VET Equity Advisory Council have been cut, and there is now no agency in VET with an equity responsibility.

We wrote to the Federal Government about the Budget and have been invited to appear at the Senate Inquiry in October. In our letter we said: "The biggest losers from the 2014 Federal Budget cuts to vocational education and training are women. New measures announced favour male-dominated industries and will do little to help the 700,000 women who enrol in VET courses each year."

We have also written to Minister Macfarlane expressing our concerns around the lack of programs that support women. Our submission to the Industry Skills Fund also expressed the need to focus on programs to support women and girls into the workforce, and the need to include WAVE in consortia applications for funding.

Senate Inquiry and House of Reps Inquiry into TAFE

WAVE made a further submission to the reconstituted House of Reps Inquiry into TAFE, and to the Senate Inquiry into TAFE. We presented to the Senate Inquiry at its Sydney hearing, again emphasising the important role that TAFE has played in delivering programs for women, and the need for continued funding.

Research

WAVE women Kira Clarke, Elaine Butler and Linda Simon conducted a research project for eS4W, on broadening the career options for young women. They undertook a national survey and developed case studies, particularly of industry groups and school/industry partnerships that support young women to undertake the STEM subjects at school, and to embark on careers in these areas or in the non-traditional trades. eS4W has released a report, prepared for the Federal Government, based on our research, which can be found on the eS4W website. Sue Thompson, our WA convenor, was able to attend the launch of the report.

Papers arising from this research have been delivered at the NCVET Conference “If a hard hat fits: supporting pathways to the trades for young women”, at the Women in Energy conference “That’s not a job for a lady! Understanding the impact of gender on career exploration activities in schools”, and the upcoming Gender and Education Association (GEA) conference with a paper “Beyond handouts, websites and work experience: supporting meaningful exploration of ‘non-traditional careers’ for young women”.

One of the positives from this research, as well as making a little money for WAVE, has been the compilation of resources, both national and international in both women’s programs and career exploration. We have established positive relationships with a range of groups that support young women, such as Fanelle and Industry Women Central.

Annette Bonnici and Linda Simon also undertook a further research project and presented a paper at the AVETRA Conference in April entitled ‘Where are the female trades teachers?’, which again raised the issues around the number of women and girls in male dominated industries.

In NSW, WAVE will again partner with NSW TAFE Managers and AVETRA in delivering an OctoberVET program, and WAVE will also be a partner in the OctoberVET program in WA.

Application for funding for a community radio program

Joy Taylor, our NT convenor, has applied for funding from the Community Broadcasting Foundation for a community radio project. If the application is successful WAVE will help to support and promote a series of radio pieces which celebrate women pioneers who were first in their field. The radio series will be produced by 8CCC Community Radio in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, NT in partnership with the National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame, which is located in Alice Springs. We are sure this will be of interest to WAVE members and our networks across the country. We'll keep you updated in the coming months

Application for funding from Women NSW

WAVE again applied for funding from Women NSW from their Investing in Women Funding program for a short course providing support and advice to careers advisers in promoting a wide range of job options for young women.

Lobbying 2014

WAVE wrote letters to the three major parties in South Australia in the lead-up to their state elections this year, and will do the same with other elections. We made a submission to the Inquiry into the Automotive Industry.

We congratulated Senator Michaelia Cash on her position as Minister assisting the Prime Minister for Women, and have since written to her on several occasions seeking a meeting and expressing our concerns around the Federal Budget.

Events

Events were held in NSW and WA.

Sue Salthouse

Sue, our ACT convenor, was made ACT Senior Woman of the Year for 2014.

2015 National Conference

WAVE has started plans for a national conference on 8 April 2015 in Melbourne. Our conference will abutt the AVETRA conference, and we will hopefully have a session within the AVETRA conference itself.

ASPBAE (<http://www.aspbae.org>)

WAVE is delighted to be associated with ASPBAE (Asia South Pacific Association for Basic & Adult Education). This collaboration is especially important as we move to framing of the post 2015 global education agenda that will replace the Millennium Goals that expire next year. It also links WAVE with other key global organisations working on the 'Post 2015' Agenda, and a stand alone goal for education, including UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) & the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE).

The year 2014 is one of special significance for ASPBAE - it is celebrating its 50th anniversary. This is being marked by a number of celebrations, including an event in Melbourne at RMIT University October 28th – 30th where WAVE Victorian Convenor Kira Clarke is working with ASPBAE, ALA, RMIT & the EU Centre at RMIT in the planning. Kira also represented WAVE at ASPBAE's Basic Leadership Development Course (BLDC) that was held at Yangon Myanmar in September 2013 and had a focus on Youth & Education

To commemorate ASPBAE's 50th anniversary in 2014, ASPBAE is producing a series of video messages, called 'ASPBAE Talks'. ASPBAE Talks is a series of short video presentations featuring luminaries from ASPBAE's long history. ASPBAE's past Presidents, Secretary- Generals, Executive Council members, and key partners share their experiences, the lessons coming out of their journey with ASPBAE, and their suggestions and recommendations for ASPBAE's future course. Maria Khan kick-started ASPBAE Talks with her introductory message. Her message can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpLN7a2dhC4&feature=youtu.be> and on ASPBAE's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTJipNlpLlmQ2n7uG5rBDAQ>

There is also a photo essay of ASPBAE through the last 5 decades available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMFURhglOyo>

The June 2014 issue of ASPBAE's quarterly *Ed-Lines* focused on Gender equality & education. It included an article about WAVE, our approach & our work (pp6-7: http://www.aspbae.org/userfiles/jul14/newsletter/Edlines_june2014.pdf)

ASPBAE's year long celebrations through different activities culminate in the Festival of Learning that is being organised in Yogyakarta from November 18-21, 2014. The **Festival of Learning: Asia Pacific Civil Society Defining Education for the Future** is an opportune moment to reflect and strategize around building the education agenda in the post 2015 scenario. The four-day program offers space for policy discourse on the recommendations for the Post 2015 education agenda; learning exchanges with Civil Society organisations, and

planning the future course for ASPBAE. Over 100 adult education practitioners and education policy advocates from 14 countries and an equal number of civil society representatives from Indonesia will come together in this event to discuss and debate the education agenda of the future. For those not able to make it to Yogyakarta, the ASPBAE website and Facebook page will be live with blogs, pictures and live feeds to facilitate involvement in this significant event.

Equality Rights Alliance (ERA)

WAVE joined the Equality Rights Alliance this year, and Sue Salthouse has agreed to be our representative.

Working with other groups

We have had discussions with Adult Learning Australia (ALA) around working closely together this year, and continue our membership of WEL, eS4W, ASPBAE, and A Fair Deal for Women. Our continued MOU with AVETRA has led to our joining with them in the 2015 conference.

Resources

WAVE has developed:

- * a flier about WAVE, its organisation and its work
- * a membership card to be handed out at events
- * a postcard outlining our main aims for these two years. The postcard says:
Australia's women and girls expect:
 - * *access to a strong, national, public vocational education and training system*
 - * *career advice, counselling and 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 provisions should be high quality, affordable, inclusive and relevant for the diversity of all Australian women*

Website

The development of a new website has been a difficult issue. Our previous developer did not fulfil her contract. We had orders made against her in the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal, but did not get our money back. Our new developer Rico has done a great job in designing the website, but we are still having issues with membership and keeping the website up-to-date. We are looking to spend some money in finding help in doing this.

Social media

We have been far more active in social media over the year, with Jen operating our LinkedIn page, and Elaine our Facebook, and have engaged with the Department of Industry over equity issues. We have participated in other VET conversations online, including through the VET Reform Taskforce.

WAVE Executive

Our Executive meeting was held in Sydney on 31 January 2014, and we developed a workplan to guide our work over the year. The annual face-to-face Executive is particularly useful for the Executive members to chat with each other. This has been a big year for Executive turnover, with some longterm members moving on. A few of our Executive members have moved on to other jobs, so Menaka and Kimberley left Executive. Others have found their own work requirements have made it difficult to continue to play a role on WAVE Executive. Janette Riggs and Helaine Costello have been long term convenors in South Australia, and we will miss them. NSW has had a quick turnover, with Menaka, Sandy and now Kaye having other work commitments. We thank them all for their work, and especially acknowledge Kimberley's role as National Secretary for many years. She has also been one of the youthful faces on Executive and we may just keep her photo up there.

But we will continue on, and we hope that those leaving can encourage a replacement or replacements to come forward. Thanks to all those who have stood again for Executive and I look forward to working with you.

Thanks to WAVE Executive members for their work over the year on behalf of all WAVE members

Public Officer – Elinor Buckley

National Secretaries – Kimberley Turner-Zeller and Robyn Woolley

National Treasurer and Memberships - Annette Bonnici

Past National Convenor and WAVE Ambassador – Elaine Butler

Rural and Regional Liaison person – Cecilia Blackwell

State and Territory Convenors

ACT – Sue Salthouse

Northern Territory – Joy Taylor

NSW – Menaka Cooke, Sandy Rogers and Kaye Lockhart

South Australia – Janette Riggs and Helaine Costello

Victoria – Kira Clarke and Jen Walsh

Western Australia – Helen Farrell. Now Sue Thompson

Linda Simon – National Convenor

10 September 2014