



WAVE in 2018

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.

WAVE was involved in a number of national and international activities in 2018, partnering with a range of groups, and setting ourselves up for the Federal elections in 2019.

Lobbying

WAVE members continue to lobby around issues relating to women and girls and adult education. The lobbying involves letter writing, submissions and visits to MPs. WAVE wrote to the major parties in the lead-up to the Tasmanian and South Australian elections, asking for a commitment to:

- * Ongoing provision for women and girls in all VET policies and programs, ensuring that these are high-quality, affordable, inclusive and relevant for the diversity of all Australian women
- * Accessible education, training and retraining programs targeted specifically to women and girls
- * Gender informed career advice and counselling for women and girls
- * Technical and trade training for women and girls in areas of skill shortages, emergent occupations and industries, including male dominated occupations
- * Increased training places targeting women out of low paid casualised jobs into viable, well-paid, tenured jobs

We also made the point that Australia has signed up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and therefore all governments in Australia are obliged to meet these commitments to gender, education and decent work.

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 under the co-ordination of National Foundation for Australian Women (NFAW). 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

The 2018/19 Federal 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 NFAW annual report.

We recognise that recommendation 1 is now out-of-date. The recommendations of the Gender Lens on the Budget report are:

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.

WAVE with other women's groups has written to the Federal Minister for Women, Kelly O'Dwyer, around the need to provide funding for women's programs in VET, and to provide access to vocational and access courses. We will also be part of NFAW's Federal election campaign by developing a claim for women and girls in VET and adult education.

International Women's Day – 8 March 2018

International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated on 8 March, commemorates women's achievements – socially, economically, culturally and politically.

The UN theme for International Women's Day 2018 was "Leave no woman behind", examining the vital role that women play in humanitarian and disaster planning and response.

WAVE sponsored some advertising on ICTV- Indigenous Community Television around International Women's Day. Have a look at an example here.

<https://ictv.com.au/video/item/5333>

What a great job they did in the Northern Territory.

International matters

Although WAVE was not actively involved in CSW62 2018 (Priority theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls) we did provide a number of resources with a focus on education, training & decent

work for rural women and girls to the Australian delegates from National Rural Women's Coalition, a sister Alliance to ERA & eS4W.

This year WAVE Ambassador Elaine Butler attended UNESCO's 4th Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED4) in Bangkok in July. The focus was on SDG4 [Education] targets 4.3 (By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university) & 4.4 (By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship) linked with the Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Elaine's presentation at the pre-meeting coordinated by ASPBAE for invited CSOs was titled: 'Gender equality and social inclusion in education and training: leveraging Agenda 2030 goals and policies for inclusive futures through TVET'.

WAVE representation on economic security 4 women (eS4W)

WAVE is represented on eS4W by Tish Champion and Linda Simon, with Elaine Butler as an alternate.

WAVE representation on Equality Rights Alliance (ERA)

WAVE is a member of ERA (<http://www.equalityrightsalliance.org.au>) Australia's largest national network advocating for women's equality, women's leadership and recognition of women's diversity. It brings together 61 organisations with an interest in advancing women's equality. WAVE is represented by a number of our members on ERA's various groups, including Linda Simon, Sue Salthouse, Elaine Butler, Jen Walsh and Sue Thompson.

Tish and Elaine both represented WAVE at ERA's members meeting in May, the aim of which was to review 2017 activities and achievements, consider issues and priorities and agree on a Work Plan for 2018-2019. Tish spoke of the critical nature of VET education for women, & highlighted some of the issues it is facing in Australia. As proposed at the May Members Meeting, ERA is producing a comprehensive, holistic gender equality plan that brings together key recommendations from civil society for Federal-level policy actions. The *National Gender Equality Plan* will also identify gaps that require further research and policy attention. The Plan is in response to the need for a holistic and interconnected approach to policy responses to gender inequality and the need for an overarching plan that enables these interlinkages.

A number of issues based Expert Working Groups (EWG) have been established to develop content and policy recommendations for the National Plan, including an Education Expert Working Group which WAVE is co-ordinating, chaired by Linda. WAVE is also represented on EWGs for Housing and Gender Mechanisms of Government (gender budgeting and gendered policy development), Women, peace & security and Women with Disability

Women's Programs in TAFE SA WAVE is represented on S.A.'s Women's Education Advisory Group (WEAG) that is chaired by Tish Champion (AEU and also WAVE SA Co-Coordinator). WEAG members played an active role in the reaccreditation

of Women's Education Certificate courses as well as focussing on its ongoing viability and promotion.

TAFE SA extended an invitation to Elaine Butler as a WAVE representative on the Course Advisory Panel for the successful reaccreditation of its Women's Education Program (Certs 2-4) which is now the only remaining Certificate course in Women's Education in the TAFE system nationally.

WAVE submitted a case study to Federal Office for Women as part of Australia's Voluntary National Review on progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – specifically SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The case study covered SDGs 4,5 & 8 and focussed on the "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>)

Partnerships

WAVE is represented on and/or collaborates with a number of organisations both to ensure our points of view are heard and included at strategic points related to the Education 2030 Agenda

- WAVE is a member of Asia South Pacific Association for Basic & Adult Education (ASPBAE)¹ – a regional association of more than 200 organisations & individuals that operates from grassroots to government and high-level global echelons, thus linking us into our wider region and globally. Information is shared regularly.
- WAVE is a member of the Women's Major Group (WMG)². We share their communications, endorse relevant documents and submissions, and contribute information relating to our interests, thus sharing on a global level.
- As a CSO (Civil Society Organisation) we are also a member of the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)³ – "APRCM is a civil society platform aimed to enable stronger cross constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Asia Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes in regional and global level. The platform is initiated, owned and driven by the CSOs, and has been set up under the auspices of UN-ESCAP and seeks to engage with UN agencies and Member States on the Post-2015 as well as other development related issues/processes." "
- WAVE is a member of Australian Coalition for Education & Development (ACED). In turn ACED is a member of &/or associated with Global Campaign for Education (GCE) & Global Partnerships in Education. This links us with a number of organisations nationally as well as internationally with an interest in the SDGs (SDG4) nationally & internationally through Australia's aid budget.

Apart from the above, we post and share international news, comments and posts related to education and training, work and of course gender issues on our Facebook page. Our

¹ <http://www.aspbae.org>

² For information about the Women's Major Group see: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/women> and <http://www.womenmajorgroup.org>

³ See: <http://www.asiapacificrcem.org>

Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/womeninadultandvocationaleducation/>) can also be accessed through our website (<http://wave.org.au/wave/>) where information is regularly updated.

WAVE AGM and Executive meeting

These meetings will be held in Canberra on 27 October.

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

Public Officer – Elinor Buckley

National Secretary – Robyn Woolley

National Treasurer - Annette Bonnici

Past National Convenor and WAVE Ambassador – Elaine Butler

Executive Member – Terri Seddon

State and Territory Convenors

ACT – Sue Salthouse and Denise Madden

Northern Territory – Sue Shore

Queensland – Jane Newton

South Australia – Angela Dean and Tish Champion

Victoria – Kira Clarke and Demmi Paris

Western Australia – Sue Thompson

NSW – Cecilia Blackwell

WAVE Resources

WAVE has developed:

- * a flyer 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.

We send Newsletters to our wider group of members 4-5 times a year. To join WAVE and receive our Newsletters, go to the website www.wave.org.au/wave/

Website

Our website continues to be a great resource and focus of interest. Thanks to Simon.

Social Media

Thanks to Elaine who continues to do a great job with Facebook, with help from others. Thanks to Kira and others who tweet.

Linda Simon – National Convenor 6 October 2018