



## WAVE in 2018/19

**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 2018/19, partnering with a range of groups, and making our position clear in the lead-up to the Federal elections.

### WAVE Executive meeting 2018

WAVE Executive met in Canberra on 27 October 2018 in Canberra. The 9 Executive members drew up a plan to help guide our activities over the year including:

- Updating the website
- Addressing membership issues
- Revamping our social media strategy
- Producing a new WAVE postcard with principles to guide our work (see below)
- Consideration of a range of new strategies, including around federal elections
- Updating administration

We undertook much of this work, but still need to consider archiving and storage of data and old papers (and the potential of updating our history), development of position papers, holding a forum/conference in 2020, building state and territory activities, and considering a different membership strategy.

### 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 NSW elections, asking for a commitment to:

- \* Access to a strong, national public vocational education and training system
- \* Career advice, counselling & targeted support to undertake accredited training for viable, well-paid and decent jobs
- \* Technical & trade training in all areas of skill shortages, emergent occupations and industries
- \* Training provision that is high quality, affordable, inclusive and relevant for the diversity of all Australian women

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.

As this was a federal election year, we joined with other women's groups in highlighting the specific needs of women and girls in VET and adult education. Following on from the work with the National Foundation for Australian Women (NFAW) on Gender Lens on the Budget, a stand alone section relevant to VET & ACE was written with four recommendations for the Federal elections. The commitments of the three major parties were analysed against these recommendations:

- Budget allocations to support vocational and training opportunities for women and girls, particularly in skills shortage areas.
- Increased funding for VET overall.
- Funding for and recognition of TAFE as public provider with primary responsibility for a range of programs for women and girls. Women's and girls' diverse needs should be explicit in all VET policy, with all VET related legislation being accompanied by a women's impact statement to ensure that the rights of women are adequately addressed
- A federal unit focused on access and social inclusion in vocational and adult education

Unfortunately no party focused on these areas of major concern.

## Gender Lens on the Budget 2019/20

WAVE was again involved in analysing the impact of the 2019/20 Federal Budget on women and girls in vocational education and training. The full 'Gender Lens on the Budget' report is on the WAVE website. The report made the following comments on the budget:

*Measured against the vocational education and training priorities for women that we have identified, the 2019/2020 Budget includes no new or additional funding for skills development. Money is simply transferred from some programs to create new programs. A number of the budget initiatives are based on review recommendations from the report released this week: 'Strengthening Skills: Expert Review of Australia's VET system', which includes significant changes to the architecture of the sector, but pays little attention to strategies to restore quality teaching and learning as cornerstones of an effective VET system. It also fails to acknowledge the importance of TAFE as the anchor for the system. There are no initiatives targeted to address NFAW priorities in the Budget. Individual Budget measures are examined in the Budget Measures table below, but overall the government has missed an opportunity to demonstrate that it understands the links between vocational education and training and satisfying and rewarding employment into ever-changing industrial and commercial sectors. The challenges for women to secure an apprenticeship are not addressed by any targeted programs. The additional apprenticeship incentive payments are welcome, but the eligible occupations are in the main male dominated trade areas. Redirected funds to a new Foundational skills program are also welcome, but totally inadequate to meet the needs for language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills needs of disadvantaged people of all backgrounds, particularly women, who require the basics to enter further education or training.*

## International Women's Day – 8 March 2019

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

The campaign theme was: #BalanceforBetter. WAVE's March Newsletter made the following points:

According to the World Economic Forum, the gender gap won't close until 2186. On IWD, women across the world come together to force the world to recognise these inequalities – while also celebrating the achievements of women who have overcome these barriers.

Post your **#IWD2019** message on social media with your "hands out" balance pose for a strong call-to-action for others to also help forge a **#BalanceforBetter**.

## **International matters**

This year WAVE contributed to submissions by Women's Major Group & CSW NGO for the UN's 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) with its focus on the Sustainable Development Goals, to ensure relevant comment is included wherever possible re education & training for women and girls (SDGs4, 5 & 8).

2020 is the 25 anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), also known as Beijing+25. During Commission in the Status of Women (CSW) 2018 meeting (CSW62) two resolutions were passed relating to Beijing +25. The first (E/CN.6/2018/L.7) set up a one-day high-level meeting to discuss progress under BPfA at the UN General Assembly in 2020, the outcome of which is to take the form of a Chair's summary. The second resolution (E/CN.6/2018/L.6) specified that the theme for CSW64 will be a review and appraisal of the implementation of the BPfA and a consideration of the outcomes of the General Assembly discussions. This resolution also provided that CSW's multi-year program of work for the 5 years from 2020 will be determined at CSW64.

WAVE has contributed to the writing and editing of draft Section B - Education and Training that will be included in a Parallel Report from Australia for the 2020. This is being coordinated via ERA.

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 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 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 represented by a number of our members on ERA's various groups, including Sue Salthouse, Elaine Butler, Jen Walsh, Sue Thompson and Linda Simon. ERA established an Education Expert Working Group convened by Linda that comprised WAVE (Linda & Elaine); AFGW & NCWA) to write a key focus section for education and training in Australia for ERA's National Gender Equality Plan (in progress). The position paper has been completed & will appear on ERA's website soon.

This paper provided the basis for ERA's submission to the Government's 2018 Independent Review of VET.

WAVE has contributed to (in our area/s of expertise) and endorsed submissions re ParentsNext, Newstart, NSW Aged Care and the Inquiry into Centrelink Compliance (robodebt).

Elaine represented WAVE at ERA's Members' planning meeting in Sydney May 2019. It was agreed that ERA's priority areas for the next three years including negotiations with Government for funding, viz:

*ERA's primary focus is on the interconnected structural drivers of gender inequality, particularly gendered poverty and its interactions with health, education, employment, gendered violence, and housing.*

*Our work aims to address intersections of disadvantage and specifically to promote the voices of women with disabilities, women from CALD backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, LGBTIQ people, older women and young women.*

*We focus on those structures which are primarily or significantly influenced by Federal policy and programs and our analysis uses a human rights framework.*

*During the 2020-202# contract, our work will focus on:*

- 1. Bringing the diversity of women's voices to develop and resource policies and processes that will achieve equality for women.*
- 2. Housing that meets the needs of women.*
- 3. Women's health and wellbeing.*
- 4. **Women and girls' access to and participation in education and training***
- 5. Policy and structures that address the structural causes of gendered poverty.*
- 6. Using our domestic structural analysis to engage with international processes and encouraging the implementation of international commitments in Australia.*

## **Women's Programs in TAFE SA**

Following successful reaccreditation in 2018, Women's Education in TAFE SA has a reinvigorated nationally accredited curriculum for women from Cert. 11 to Cert IV:-

### **Certificate Ii In Vocational Preparation For Women (10738nat) 6 Months f/t**

This course will develop essential literacy, numeracy and computing skills as well as self-confidence and explore career options. The student is empowered by an awareness of the issues faced by women in Australia and will gain an understanding of the support networks available.

### **Certificate Iii In Women's Advocacy (10739nat) 6 -9 Months F/T**

Builds confidence and skills for entry into further education and/or employment. It has a specific vocational focus in women's advocacy which can be applied in a variety of settings (workplace and community). It enables women to move successfully into either Certificate IV in Women's Advocacy or other vocational courses at TAFE

### **Certificate Iv In Women's Advocacy (10740nat) 6 - 9 Months F/T**

Develops further confidence and study skills and provides a pathway into higher education and training in TAFE, University or to enhance employment or promotion opportunities.

The course builds on Certificate III in Women's Advocacy by developing advocacy skills for work and/or in the community. The Certificate IV in Women's Advocacy provides the student with an excellent grounding in gender analysis which will enable them to assist an organisation to develop initiatives addressing gender diversity in the workplace.

The following are examples of units from each certificate that assist in developing the skills women need for confidently participating in the workforce, including in male dominated occupations, and leadership position:-.

**Certificate II –**

- Communicate assertively
- Participate in work teams and groups
- Microsoft office suite
- Support women in the workplace and community

**Certificate III –**

- Advocate for women
- Implement sustainability initiatives
- Manage conflict at work
- Make a presentation
- Use and promote personal safety strategies for women

**Certificate IV –**

- Provide advocacy and representation services
- Conduct research
- Write complex documents
- Facilitate mediation
- Show social and cultural sensitivity

The Women's Education Advisory Group (WEAG) chaired by Tish Champion (AEU/WAVE SA) is set to continue, with its first meeting for 2019 scheduled for October. WAVE will continue to be represented on WEAG.

## Partnerships

WAVE has also contributed to and/or endorsed a range of submissions/briefings recently, including NFAW submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care, the Joint Position Statement with Touching Base calling for a rights-based framework for sexuality in the NDIS, the NSW Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019, ACED Spotlight Report and SA Destination Study – Women's Education Program. WAVE wrote to Minister Wyatt supporting the Uluru Statement.).

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)<sup>1</sup> – 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.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.aspbae.org>

- WAVE is a member of the Women’s Major Group (WMG)<sup>2</sup> and of NGO CSW<sup>3</sup>. 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)<sup>4</sup> – “APRCEM 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 AGM and Executive meeting

The WAVE AGM this year will be held online on 25 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

**WAVE Ambassador** – Elaine Butler

**State and Territory Convenors**

**ACT** – Sue Salthouse and Denise Madden

**Queensland** – Jane Newton

**South Australia** – Tish Champion

**Victoria** – Kira Clarke, Deb Parker and Demmi Paris

**Western Australia** – Sue Thompson and Sarah Leftwich

**NSW** – Cecilia Blackwell and Terri Quinlan

**Tasmania** – Rebecca Gray

## 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/](http://www.wave.org.au/wave/)

## Website

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

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

<sup>3</sup> For information about NGO CSW see: <https://www.ngocsw.org>

<sup>4</sup> See: <http://www.asiapacificrcem.org>

## **Social Media**

Thanks to Kira and Deb for developing a social media strategy, and to Elaine who continues to do a great job with Facebook.

**Linda Simon – National Convenor**  
**21 October 2019**