



To: Federal Members of Parliament  
Dear

16 May 2016

Women in Adult and Vocational Education (WAVE) is an NGO, the only national organisation with a focus on women and post compulsory education and training. WAVE represents the interests of women and girls in the broad areas of adult, vocational and work-related education and training, and in the links between these, employment outcomes and labour market positions.

Part of WAVE's role is to advocate for women and girls in VET and adult education, and as such we wish to:

1. express concerns with the recent Federal budget and its lack of funding for VET and recognition of the needs of students;
2. ask you to ensure that these students are an important focus of the upcoming Federal election campaign with a policy that recognises access and equity as a key part of VET's role and the specific needs of women and girls in regional and remote areas; and
3. seriously address the issues raised by WAVE members in the attached postcard.

WAVE undertakes significant research including around career options for young women, apprenticeships for women, and the effects of changes and the marketization of VET on programs for women and girls. This research has led us to frame the following call to all Federal MPs and candidates.

WAVE asks that you to recognise and support Australia's women and girls to gain:

- 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 provision that is high quality, affordable, inclusive and relevant for the diversity of all Australian women.

WAVE is aware of the commitment of the current Federal Government to increasing the number of women and girls in STEM vocations, in non-traditional trades and to meeting G20 and other international targets to help redress gender issues in Australia's labour market. Without significant increases in funding to VET and adult education programs in general, and for women and girls specifically, WAVE does not believe that any government will succeed in these changes.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

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