



Women in Adult and Vocational Education Newsletter

Issue Number: 3

Year: 2019



Welcome

Welcome to our new look WAVE Newsletter. Thanks to Deb Parker for her work on it. You may also have noticed that our social media is also looking different. We welcome any input to newsletters, WAVE website or social media.

Contact us at wave@wave.org.au

Linda Simon

National Convenor

This issue

This issue includes a great update from Elaine Butler on what is happening around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in relation to adult education and women.

We also remind you about the upcoming WAVE AGM, and draw your attention to current issues in adult education, VET and the impact on women and girls.



Australian wrap up

WAVE AGM

The WAVE AGM will be held on Friday 25 October at 4.30 pm (AEST). 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 website: www.wave.org.au, as to current representatives. WAVE is happy to create shared positions. This gives you an opportunity to add your voice and ideas to a range of issues in adult and vocational education, through WAVE.

A formal call will occur in October, but if you are interested contact me through wave@wave.org.au.

Joining WAVE

At this time of year we ask you if you would like to become a financial supporter of WAVE, either as an individual for \$50 or organisational for \$120. WAVE does not receive any other funding, and all such funds assist WAVE to continue its advocacy work. All Executive members need to join as financial supporters.

WAVE activities

WAVE was active up to and around the Federal elections in taking WAVE's election issues to relevant women standing for Parliament, and in contributing to the election demands of National Foundation for Australian Women (NFAW). We are following up with letters to the new Minister for Women Marise Payne, the Shadow Minister for Women Julie Collins, and the Greens spokesperson Larissa Waters.

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.

VET and other issues

FINAL CALL: UP TO \$7,000 AVAILABLE FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Women currently working in the education sector have a final opportunity to register their interest in a scholarship worth up to \$7,000 to support participation in an accredited leadership development program.

Funding must be apportioned by the end of September and it is unsure when these grants will be available again. Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form here prior to 5pm on September 20: www.wla.edu.au/register

Equal Pay Day 2019 date to be released on Thursday 15th August and will mark 50th Anniversary of "equal pay for equal work" Industrial Relations endorsement

See <https://www.equalpayday.com.au/>





AVETRA OctoberVET

The Australasian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA) is calling for expressions of interest from people who wish to run an OctoberVET event in their area in 2019. OctoberVET is a season of local presentations or discussions coordinated by AVETRA. The goal is to showcase, disseminate and debate VET research.

OctoberVET events can be:

- large or small, formal or informal.
- about showcasing VET research (underway or completed).
- conversations around research that should be done in the VET sector.
- focused on how to apply VET research.

Visit the [AVETRA website](#) for information.

COAG National Vision for VET

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) – the peak intergovernmental forum in Australia – has released a Vision for vocational education and training (VET).

The release took place on 9 August 2019 [following COAG's Cairns meeting](#) of the Prime Minister and premiers of all states and territories.

The agreed summary COAG VET vision is:

“A strong Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector is critical for our economy and ensuring Australians are equipped for the workforce now and in the future. Leaders agreed to a shared vision for VET delivering high quality education and training that meets the needs of students and employers. VET and higher education are equal and integral parts of Australia’s post-secondary education system. The Commonwealth and states and territories will work together to deliver a system which helps all Australians – for those getting first

qualifications or re-training – get the skills they need for employment. Skills ministers will work together through a new COAG Skills Council, in consultation with education ministers, to advise leaders on future reform priorities by the end of 2019 and provide a reform roadmap to COAG in early 2020.”

The full COAG VET Vision, published 9 August 2019 is available on [the COAG website](#)

WAVE calls on the Federal Government to ensure that the National vision includes a focus on the vocational education and training needs of women and girls.

Financy Women’s Index

This is a scorecard on the financial performance of Australian women. The June quarter Key results show:

- The Financy Women’s Index rose 0.5 points to 123.9 points in the June quarter, from a revised 123.4 in the March quarter.
- Based on the 2018-19 financial year progress, Australian women are 45 years and well over a generation away from achieving economic equality.
- Annual pace of financial progress relative to males slowed due to a moderation in the pace of female full-time employment and little improvement in female appointments on ASX 200 boards and unpaid work.
- Progress was helped by a record narrowing in the superannuation gender gap and small declines in female underemployment and unpaid work.

<https://financy.com.au/financy-womens-index-report/>



International News

WAVE at ACED-EU Centre at RMIT UN HLPF 2019 Debrief (SDG4) in Melbourne

The Australian Coalition for Education and Development (ACED) and the EU Centre at RMIT held a public debriefing at RMIT's Melbourne city campus with a focus on the 2019 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2019). The High Level Political Forum meets at the UN annually and is the mandated platform to follow up and review progress of and challenges to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that form the basis of 2030 Agenda. Members who attended HLPF 2019 either in person or virtually reflected on progress and on-going challenges to achieving SDG 4. The debriefing seminar followed immediately after Jean Monnet Sustainable Development Goals Network [Seminar SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation](#).

ACED brings together 15 non-government organisations in Australia working on education in global development with a particular focus on *Education 2030* and the SDGs. Prior to the HLPF the ACED released a [Spotlight Report: Australia's Progress on the Education Sustainable Development Goal – SDG 4](#), to which WAVE contributed. During the HLPF 2019, the [Australian Spotlight Summary Report](#) was launched together with the Asia-Pacific [Regional Spotlight Report](#) prepared by the delegation from Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) who attended the HLPF. The [Australian Spotlight Report](#) also contributed to the Global Spotlight Report Panel Discussion hosted by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE).

Speakers at the EU Centre/RMIT- ACED Melbourne event included:

- Susan Hopgood (President, Education International);
- Jose Roberto (Robbie) Guevara (Vice-President, International Council of Adult Education (ICAE));
- Carolyn Johnstone (Convenor, Australian Coalition for Education and Development (ACED)) and
- Elaine Butler (Ambassador, Women in Adult and Vocational Education)



Elaine's presentation focussed on 'Engaging with HLPF virtually: Insights from Women's Major Group (WMG)'. The WMG's engagement at the HLPF was based on input from members globally, as was the informative WMG Position Paper. For each SDG, the WMG Position paper provided an overview, impact on women & girls, structural issues, barriers & action, and recommendations (25 for SDG4). WMG's impact evaluation for HPF 2019 highlights a global reach of 5 million people via online & social media with 42 million engagements along with 21 interventions, 17 side events, 19 articles, blogs etc. and 7 meetings with delegates at HLPF 2019 in New York.

WAVE's membership of both NGO Major Group and WMG provided online/virtual opportunity for our engagement prior to, during (real time) & post the HLPF for gender informed input about SDGs 4 & 8 and their interrelationships with other SDGs including the other Goals under review, based on the knowledge & advocacy in Australia's national and regional context. This included opportunity for input into the official Conclusions document. The engagement was educative and collaborative, as well as timely & proactive.

An informal meeting of ACED members after the Debrief confirmed ACED's ability to focus on SDG4 from both national as well as regional/international perspectives, in our policy advocacy work.

(Elaine's report with footnotes is available on the website)



ABOUT WAVE

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. WAVE was formed in 1987, the first and only national and autonomous non-government organisation for Australian women in the adult, community and vocational education and training sector

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