



Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.

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www.afgw.org.au

26 December 2014

Senator Simon Birmingham
Assistant Minister of Education and Training
PO Box 6100
The Senate
Australian Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

We congratulate you on your appointment as Assistant Minister of Education and Training and wish to introduce our organisation.

AFGW is the national voice of graduate women working, since 1922, through initiatives in Education for the advancement and wellbeing of women and girls. We view Education as essential for Empowering Women; Reducing Poverty Improving Health; Understanding Human Rights; and, Maintaining Human Security and Building Peace.

AFGW aims to unite graduate women in Australia to work together and with the International Federation of University Women's network of sister graduates worldwide to:

- Promote equitable educational opportunities and lifelong learning.
- Improve the status and well being of women and girls.
- Encourage women and girls to be active leaders and decision-makers in public and private life.
- Inspire and support women graduates to put their education and professional training to the service of the local, national and international community.
- Promote the Vision of AFGW amongst all people, irrespective of their gender, age, race, nationality, religion, political opinion, gender, sexual orientation or other status.

Each year AFGW, its affiliated state bodies and branches, give over \$0.5 million in scholarships to woman and girls to further their education particularly at tertiary level. We also support a number of education projects for girls in the developing countries.

We advocate at state and federal level for improvements in education especially through development of curriculum, provision of resources, and initiatives in training staff. We have greatly appreciated the work of Senator Sussan Ley especially with initiatives in VETiS and hope you will take up the ongoing VET reforms and the review of training.

We wish you well in taking up your new responsibilities.

Tricia Blombery
Convener Standing Committee for Education
for
Dr Madeleine Laming

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