



***Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.***

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**[www.afgw.org.au](http://www.afgw.org.au)**

18 September 2015

Senator Robert Simms  
Greens Spokesman for Higher Education  
PO Box 6100  
The Senate  
Australian Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

We congratulate you on your appointment as Greens spokesman for Higher Education 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 Graduate Women International's network of sister graduates worldwide to:

- Promote equitable educational opportunities and lifelong learning.
- Improve the status and wellbeing 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 made submissions to the both recent TAFE Reviews and to enquiries on Teacher Training as well as frequent letter to Simon Birmingham re quality of VET.

We wish you well in taking up your new responsibilities and look forward to working with you.

Tricia Blombery  
Convener Standing Committee for Education  
for  
Dr Madeleine Laming President

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