

## Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc. PO Box 62 Enmore NSW 2042 www.afgw.org.au

25 February 2016Senator Fiona NashPO Box 6100.Senate Parliament HouseCanberra ACT 2600.

Dear Senator Nash

On behalf of AFGW Inc I write to congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Leader of the National Party, and as the first woman in this position – certainly fulfilling our aim of "Inspiring and supporting women graduates to put their education and professional training to the service of the local, national and international community."

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 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.

Congratulations, and thank you for inspiring girls and women throughout Australia by showing what they can achieve even in the still very macho world of politics!

Yours sincerely

Jane Baker President AFGW Inc