



Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.

PO Box 62 Enmore NSW 2042

www.afgw.org.au

18 February, 2016

Senator the Hon Scott Ryan
Minister of Vocational Education and Skills
PO Box 6100
The Senate
Australian Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

We congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Vocational Education and Skills and wish to reintroduce our organisation. We are aware you were previously assisting Christopher Pyne when he was Minister for Education so are confident you are well informed of this portfolio and its significance for building Australia as an innovative nation.

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.

We advocate at state and federal level for improvements in education, training and skills. We have greatly appreciated the previous work of The Hon Luke Hartsuyker and Senator Birmingham especially with initiatives to better regulate private training providers and support the TAFE network and hope you will take up the ongoing VET reforms and the review of skills needs and training. We look forward to information on the proposed federal amalgamation of TAFEs.

We wish you well in taking up your new responsibilities.

Tricia Blombery
Convener Standing Committee for Education
for Dr Jane Baker, President AFGW

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