



## Women in Adult and Vocational Education Newsletter

Issue Number: 2

Year: 2021



**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. Web: [wave.org.au](http://wave.org.au) E: [wave@wave.org.au](mailto:wave@wave.org.au)

### Welcome

Welcome to our second WAVE Newsletter for 2021.

In this edition we focus on the Federal Budget, the need for a gender lens and the challenges we see. We also have a look at grant news and the outcomes of the Sue Salthouse Inaugural Grant. We have included details of the April AVETRA Conference and new eS4W papers.

We are also proud to announce the launch of our new LinkedIn Page which can be accessed [here](#), please take some time to look at the page and if you are a LinkedIn member please follow it to keep up to date on news and events.

Also visit WAVE: [wave.org.au](http://wave.org.au) and our Socials:



WAVE is a voluntary run organisation, relying on memberships, donations and the volunteer contributions of our members to achieve what we do.

If you are interested in becoming a member, or contributing to our work, locally or at a national level please contact us by email, or visit our website and send us a message [wave.org.au/contact](http://wave.org.au/contact)

To become a member of WAVE contact us via email [wave@wave.org.au](mailto:wave@wave.org.au) and we will send you an invoice. WAVE membership fees for 2020-2021 are - individual \$50, Organisation \$120.

Have you ever thought about giving a bit of your time to working with other women in adult and vocational education? All Executive Members must be financial members. Let us know if you are interested, contact:

Linda Simon (National Convenor) [wave@wave.org.au](mailto:wave@wave.org.au)



## Network News

### economic Security4Women (eS4W) News

#### Presentation to the Women & Work Parliamentary Friendship Group - 6 May 2021

On Thursday, 6th May 2021, Stephen Koukoulas, eS4W's economist in residence delivered eS4W's recommendations on some of the issues that need to be addressed to improve women's economic security and leadership opportunities to the Women & Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Please visit - <https://www.security4women.org.au/es4w-recommendations-to-improve-womens-economic-security-in-australia/> to view the presentation.

#### eS4W – Recommendation Papers

In May eS4W launched four recommendation papers for government, corporate and civil society to review and commend through affirmation and policy actions, to improve women's economic security and leadership aspirations across Australia.

eS4W implore everyone to take these recommendations as urgent for consideration and action. The papers highlight each Issue, Recommendation, Rationale, Implementation and Conclusion:

- [Women and the Future of Work](#)
- [Leadership Styles and Gender Imbalance](#)
- [The Economic Security of Women in regional, rural and remote Australia](#)
- [How Women Owned Businesses Impact Women's Economic Security](#)



## Social Media Update

WAVE launched its new LinkedIn Page <https://www.linkedin.com/company/women-in-adult-vocational-education> May 2021

Making a shift from a Group to an open page to enable a broader reach across the LinkedIn network.

Encouraging women working in education from the diverse group that makes up VET and adult education in Australia and overseas to be part of your tribe.

As a WAVE member you become part of the national feminist network that advocates on behalf of women in adult and vocational education and training and employment related issues. Your membership lends strength to that advocacy, giving WAVE a distinctive place in the women's movement.

If you have not connected with our social media platforms, please visit them today.

A big shout out to WAVE's [Elaine Butler](#) our WAVE Ambassador who is a regular contributor to WAVE's Facebook page ([@womeninadultandvocationaleducation](#)) and keeps followers up to date on current news across the areas of domestic and international education and gender equity.





## WAVE/Sue Salthouse Grant

The WAVE/Sue Salthouse Grant for research into gender and disability was made for the first time this year at AVETRA's April conference. The grant for \$1000 went to Annemaree Gibson and Annie Carney from Box Hill Institute (BHI) to support their completion of a paper for publication on a current program that helps build teacher capability to support learners of all abilities.



**Annemaree Gibson**

*Teaching and Learning Specialist & Research Integrity Advisor*

Annemaree is a highly skilled Teaching and Learning Specialist who has facilitated teacher professional development, and researched and presented in Australia and overseas.

**Annie Carney**  
*Teaching and Learning Specialist (Projects)*



Annie Carney is an experienced learning designer who has worked extensively as a writer, editor and project manager in the education field.

## AVETRA Conference 2021

**19-23 April 2021**

### ***Recover, rethink and rebuild: All eyes on VET***

In April 2021 VET practitioners and researchers came together for a multi-day conference with speakers and sessions drawn from researchers, practitioners and policymakers across Australia and internationally.

**Anne Jones**

*Non-executive director Chisholm Institute, Emeritus professor of Victoria University, Higher and Vocational Education Research and Projects Consultant.*



At the conference Dr Anne Jones delivered the keynote for the AVETRA/WAVE day on equity and diversity. Anne's presentation can be accessed [here](#). Her keynote was followed by a panel addressing the issue: **What role can adult and vocational education and training play in addressing equity and diversity?**

Each panellist presented a short paper and engaged with conference participants around the issues raised in the various papers. The panel consisted of:

- \* Dr Peter Hurley, Policy Fellow, Mitchell Institute for Education and Health Policy – Victoria University
- \* Pamela Osmond, educator and researcher in adult literacy, and author of the recently published *Developing Social Equity in Australian Adult Education: Lessons from the Past*
- \* Trudy Firth, Disability & NDIS Industry Specialist, Chisholm Institute
- \* Tom Crowley, Associate, Budget Policy and Institutional Reform Program, Grattan Institute.

The panel was chaired by Linda Simon



## Budget 2021

The Federal Budget 2021 is generally acknowledged as being an improvement on last year's budget in relation to women. It has taken a number of significant problems for the Government during the year to reach this point. The [Women's Budget Statement](#) was restored as part of the budget, but again commentators noted that it was not about an entire gender-responsive budget process. It was still rather an add-on.

This Budget statement reported on the effect of the COVID pandemic on women and on government measures in the fields of women's safety, women's economic security and women's health and wellbeing. Again this budget does not do enough to address that, even with a \$3.4 billion pledge for women's economic security, safety and health. There is increased funding for employment and training in aged care, and increased funding for childcare.

In the VET budget paper, the Government has again missed the opportunity to re-set policies that have led to training market failures, and continued current practices with only a final \$25m for revitalising TAFE campuses. The public TAFE system should be refunded as essential social infrastructure for recovery and re-skilling. It is a national asset with a wide geographical distribution. There is no new funding to support a new national agreement, still under discussion.

The two main initiatives are: **Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program (AAIP)** and the newer **JobTrainer Fund**. The Commonwealth is adding \$500 million to JobTrainer with an expectation of matching funds from states and territories. This brings the total investment in JobTrainer to \$2 billion. This Fund according to the **Women's Budget Statement** has supported almost 115,000 enrolments with 56 per cent of these being women. The program has been extended to December 2022 so has the potential to assist many young women into training. There are also an additional 33,800 new places targeted to support aged care skills.

The Boosting Apprenticeships Commencements wage subsidy to employers has been extended to 31 March 2022, with a total of \$2.7 billion. This ignores the need to invest in measures to support apprentices and trainees to complete their terms and to remain in industries where there are skills shortages.

Of major concern to women with respect to this program, is the failure to include them in the Equity Groups meriting special assistance in the [Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program Guidelines](#). As part of the **commencement** subsidy, 5000 Gateway Services places have been allocated for women interested in undertaking an apprenticeship in a non-traditional trade occupation. This is a welcome targeted initiative. But the number of places will be spread very thinly once divided amongst state and territories.

The **National Careers Institute (NCI)** has had its funding doubled to \$13.3 million and a proportion of these funds will go into a grants program to facilitate partnerships with industry, employers or schools for innovative projects that support women's workforce participation. It is designed to support women to make informed decisions about career pathways