



WAVE in 2020/21

As a WAVE member you're part of a national network that advocates on behalf of women and girls in adult and vocational education and training. Your membership lends strength to our advocacy.

WAVE was involved in a number of national and international activities in 2020/21, partnering with a range of groups, and seeking to ensure that government policy in relation to adult and vocational education during COVID-19 addressed the needs of women and girls.

Congratulations Elaine

We congratulate our long time member Elaine Butler on becoming a Member of the Order of Australia. Elaine is currently WAVE Ambassador and is involved in much of our international work. She was previously National Co-convenor. For this award she was recognised for significant service to women, to vocational education, and to gender equity.

The Salthouse Sistas

At the end of 2020, WAVE established a project in WA with the support of our co-convenors Sue Thompson and Sarah Leftwich, to set up a network for young women with disabilities. WAVE has worked with our project officer, Tayla Taseff throughout this year. Tayla has:

- * developed a network of young women with disabilities
- * made contact with other relevant organisations
- * worked to design a logo
- * helped set up a Salthouse Sistas page on our website
- * worked to launch Salthouse Sistas on 15 September at North Metropolitan TAFE in Perth.

We thank Tayla for all her work and hope that she and the network will establish useful links with the National Women's Alliance Women with Disabilities Australia. We also thank Sue, Sarah and North Metropolitan TAFE for their support in making this a success. The network will continue to be part of our website.

The WAVE/Sue Salthouse Grant for research into gender and disability

In 2020, WAVE established a grant in memory of our longtime member Sue Salthouse. This grant was awarded 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. We look forward to the launch of their paper.

It is our intention to make this an annual grant, for a practitioner/researcher to undertake VET research on themes of gender and disability.

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.

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 WAVE National Convenor Linda Simon

Gender Lens on the Budget

WAVE participated again in analysing the Federal Budget for National Foundation for Australian Women. The report noted:

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.

Research Proposal

WAVE Executive members Jan and Elaine worked on a research proposal for a partnership grant from the National Careers Institute. The objectives of the partnership grants were:

- Improve the quality of, and access to careers information and advice
- Build an evidence-base for best practice career development
- Demonstrate the value of career development
- Increase knowledge and create greater awareness of career paths and career information

Unfortunately we did not win a grant but will continue to pursue other possibilities.

Lobbying

WAVE members continue to lobby around issues relating to women and girls and adult education. The lobbying involves letter writing, submissions and visits to MPs. Our stated demands include:

- * Access to a strong, national public vocational education and training system
- * Career advice, counselling & targeted support to undertake accredited training for viable, well-paid and decent jobs
- * Technical & trade training in all areas of skill shortages, emergent occupations and industries
- * Training provision that is high quality, affordable, inclusive and relevant for the diversity of all Australian women

We also continue to make the point that Australia has signed up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and therefore all governments in Australia are obliged to meet these commitments to gender, education and decent work.

WAVE is undertaking further work around its advocacy messages to inform its work over the year and claims in the lead-up to the federal elections.

International Women's Day 2021

The International Women's Day theme this year was #Choose to Challenge. This was described as: "A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. We can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. We can all choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world.

From challenge comes change, so let's all **choose to challenge.**"

The campaign continues in encouraging everyone to choose to challenge gender bias and inequality.

WAVE representation on economic security 4 women (eS4W)

WAVE is represented on eS4W by Jan Edwards and Linda Simon, with Elaine Butler as an alternate. Deb Parker also represented us earlier this year. Jan has been a member of sS4W's Management Group, an important involvement given that as eS4W is no longer a funded national women's alliance, there will be a change in its work and role. WAVE wants to ensure that the important research and projects that it has been involved in through eS4W over the years, remain in the public domain.

WAVE representation on Equality Rights Alliance (ERA)

WAVE has been represented by a number of our members on ERA's various groups and meetings, including Elaine Butler, Jan Edwards and Linda Simon. Linda has been elected as a member of the steering committee for the next two years.

International matters - Partnerships and Alliances

Thanks to Elaine, L'Amour and Jan for their work on international issues.

WAVE is represented on and/or collaborates with a number of regional and national organisations that focus on education (especially post compulsory education) and links to decent work as well as gender equality, social inclusion and furthering the intent of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our membership involves active participation to contribute to furthering inclusive education agendas and policies in our areas of expertise. This participation enhances the potential for ensuring priorities we consider significant are incorporated into a variety of agendas, thus also supporting our strategic position while we also keep abreast of global/local initiatives and issues. As well as active participation, we share information, sign petitions and assist in the development of submissions where relevant and appropriate.

WAVE is a member of:

Asia South Pacific Association for Basic & Adult Education (ASPBAE)¹ – a regional association of more than 200 organisations & individuals that operates from grassroots to government and high-level global echelons, links WAVE into the wider region and globally. This includes involvement in the new global alliance 'We are ALE' that has come together around a shared global definition and vision of adult education and learning (ALE) and in a shared five year campaign².

Key achievements that WAVE representatives have contributed to in 2020/21 include:

- Active participation in the preparatory meetings to deliberate on the contexts and recommendations for adult education and learning (ALE) and specifically the seventh International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VII)³ that will be held in 2022. This included attending the Pacific CSO Preparatory Meeting on 22 July 2021

¹ <http://www.aspbae.org>

² The agreed definition of ALE includes 'three key domains of learning and skills: literacy and basic skills, continuing education and vocational skills, including liberal, popular and community education and citizenship skills, for youth and adults including the elderly.' For the full definition of ALE & information about 'We are ALE' see: <https://www.we-are-ale.org/the-ale-campaign/>

³ CONFINTEA is the high level global meeting with a focus on adult education held every 12 years. For information see: <https://uil.unesco.org/adult-education/confintea/seventh-international-conference-adult-education-confintea-vii>

as part of Pacific subregional consultation and the Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES) consultation meetings. Organised by ASPBAE, Faculty of Maori and Pacific Development, University of Waikato and the Indigenous Maori and Pacific Adult Education Charitable Trust (IMPACT) participation enabled a stronger voice within the intergovernmental meeting and to agree on a CSO Pacific agenda on ALE. These recommendations were presented in the series of UNESCO-organised subregional consultations on CONFINTEA VII.

- Contributions to a position paper that builds on the ALE recommendations from subregional discussions. Key recommendations were also based on the priorities proposed by members during the CONFINTEA VII discussions on Day 2 of the Regional ALE Advocacy Workshop August 2021.
- Tayla Taseff (Project officer of Salthouse Sistas) represented WAVE at ASPBAE's Youth Forum.
- Participation in ASPBAE's two day Regional Capacity Building workshop (virtual) on ALE Advocacy August 25-26 2021 that was designed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of civil society education coalitions and adult education providers to enable a scaling up of ALE advocacy in their countries and in other transnational policy spaces. As a WAVE rep Elaine Butler presented an invited session "The SDGs and gender. Where are we at, what's next & why?"
- WAVE participated as an invited CSO through ASPBAE in UNESCO's online Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Conference for the International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA) VII on September 22, 2021⁴ involved an early Zoom consultation held by UNESCO for the Pacific region followed by a full day of workshops and presentations that culminated in submissions for a draft set of recommendations. The latter will be circulated again for final comment. Participants included nominated high level officials within the main Asia Pacific Ministries responsible for ALE/CE/LLL/NFE, invited CSO representatives, UN staff, UIL staff, academics and other stakeholders⁵.

Women's Major Group (WMG)⁶ and (to a lesser degree) of NGO CSW⁷. We share their communications, endorse relevant documents and submissions, join in online consultations and contribute information relating to our areas of expertise and interests, thus sharing on a global level. Recent achievements include the Position Paper for the UN's 2021 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF)⁸ is the core UN platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁹. WMG's position paper developed in consultation with its members reviews systemic barriers and recommendations from a feminist perspective for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and building a just recovery and feminist response to the pandemic (see <https://www.womensmajorgroup.org/wmg-position-paper-for-hlpf-2021/>).

⁴ For information, agenda and access to resources see: <https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/asia-and-pacific-regional-preparatory-conference-international-conference-adult-education>

⁵ Abbreviations: CE- continuing education; LLL- lifelong learning; NFE- non formal education; CSO- civil society organisations; UN- United Nations; UIL- UN Institute of lifelong learning (<https://uil.unesco.org>).

⁶ For information about the Women's Major Group see <https://www.womensmajorgroup.org>

⁷ For information about NGO CSW see <https://ngocsw.org>

⁸ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021>

⁹ For information see: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

- As a WMG member that completed a survey, WAVE participated in a small group consultation held by WMC as part of its global consultations for its strategic planning dialogues – this time with Asia Pacific region members on 17th September 2021. The aim of the discussions was to share information and gather more feedback and ideas about how to strengthen the work of WMG in the future.

Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)¹⁰ – “APRCEM is a civil society platform aimed to enable stronger cross constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Asia Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes in regional and global level. The platform is initiated, owned and driven by the CSOs, and has been set up under the auspices of UN-ESCAP and seeks to engage with UN agencies and Member States on the Post-2015 as well as other development related issues and processes.” While WAVE is a member of APRCEM, our involvement is minimal. Our interests are well represented by ASPBAE that is an active member of the REM.

Australasian Vocational Education Training Research Association (AVETRA)¹¹ - WAVE is currently revitalising the MOU that exists between WAVE and AVETRA, including clarifying how we can effectively share common resources and support/communication mechanisms.

Australian Coalition for Education and Development (ACED)¹² - WAVE is a longstanding member of the group that covers shared interests in adult learning and education from community level to policy issues.

ACFID Education Community of Practice (CoP) comprises members across Australia and the region with an interest in international development. We provided inputs into a discussion paper about the complexities of distance learning during COVID-19 and supported advocacy efforts to increase Australian contribution to the Global Partnerships in Education fund. The CoP liaises with DFAT and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). The DFAT 2021 Education Forum will be held virtually from September to December 2021 under the theme ‘Education: the pathway to jobs and growth’. WAVE representatives attended the Expert Panel: Why Education Matters to Economic Growth and Stability on 21st September 2021.

AVETRA

WAVE and AVETRA are revitalising the MOU that exists between the two organisations, including as to how we can effectively share common resources and support/communication mechanisms.

Newsletters

WAVE communicates with a large range of members through our Newsletters – four this year, as well as regular posts on social media. Contributions are always welcome. Thanks to Deb for her continued work in helping to make these Newsletters attractive and engaging.

¹⁰ See: <http://asiapacificrcem.org>

¹¹ <https://avetra.org.au>

¹² <https://ala.asn.au/australian-coalition-for-education-and-development-aced/>

Communications Update and Social Media

As our Communications officer, Deb undertook considerable work this year. She drafted two papers that will continue to inform WAVE's work – Strategic Planning Working Document and Communications Planning Working Document.

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.

Thanks to Kira, Elaine, Deb and Jan for their work around social media.

WAVE AGM and Executive meeting

As well as our AGM, WAVE Executive has been meeting in bi-monthly meetings to discuss and manage our work more efficiently. It has been great being able to chat to everyone online in this way.

The WAVE AGM this year will be held online on 7 October at 5 pm (AEST)

Proposed change of membership fees to be considered at AGM

The following proposal for change of membership fees will be considered at the AGM. This is to give more continuity of membership.

“That WAVE financial membership be changed to make membership:

- Payable in October each year
- Individual membership - \$50 for initial joining and \$30 each year afterwards
- Organisational membership - \$100 for initial joining and \$75 each year afterwards”

Thanks to WAVE Executive members for their work over the year on behalf of all WAVE members. A number of Executive members are moving on to other roles this year so we look forward to new representatives

Public Officer – Elinor Buckley

National Secretary – Robyn Woolley

National Treasurer - Annette Bonnici

WAVE Ambassador – Elaine Butler

WAVE Communications – Debra Parker

State and Territory Convenors

ACT – no representative

Queensland – Jane Newton

Victoria – Kira Clarke, Demmi Paris and Sally Thompson

Western Australia – Sue Thompson and Sarah Leftwich

South Australia – Jan Edwards, Jeannie Daniels and Janette Riggs

Northern Territory – Raelke Grimmer

NSW – Cecilia Blackwell, L.Amour Gina-Whewell and Terri Quinlan

Tasmania – Rebecca Gray

WAVE Resources

WAVE has developed:

- * a flyer about WAVE, its organisation and its work
- * a membership card to be handed out at events
- * a postcard outlining our main aims for these two years.

We send Newsletters to our wider group of members 4-5 times a year. To join WAVE and receive our Newsletters, go to the website www.wave.org.au

Website

Our website continues to be a great resource and focus of interest. We have redeveloped our website over the year and it is now a clearer site to post important WAVE matters. We are continuing to increase the number of historic WAVE and VET documents on the site. Thanks to Simon and Inkwire.

Linda Simon – National Convenor