



WAVE in 2012

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.

***2012 has been another very busy year for WAVE.
Some of our activities and achievements include¹: -***

Face-to-Face Meeting

WAVE executive met in Sydney in January 2012, and formalised a Plan of Action for 2012. It was agreed that our main priorities for 2012 – 2103 would be:

- Building relationships with governments and other relevant groups
- Celebrating 25 years of WAVE
- Building membership and capacity
- Campaigning to have policies favourable to women implemented

Advocacy and lobbying

WAVE wrote introducing our organisation and congratulating Hon. Julie Collins MP on her appointment as Minister for the Status of Women in the second Gillard Ministry. We also thanked Hon Tanya Plibersek MP for her work as the previous Minister for the Status of Women, and congratulated her on her new appointment as Minister for Health.

2012 has seen most of VET activities shifted from DEEWR to the newly formed Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, research and Tertiary Educations (DIISRTE) <http://www.innovation.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>. While we have continued contact with DEEWR, the establishment of this DIISRTE means that WAVE has needed to inform ourselves about the scope of the Department and so work to establish new contacts.

Letters were sent from WAVE to a number of key figures in adult and vocational education and training, including Robin Shreeve CEO of the now Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency (AWPA), the Hon. Sharon Bird when she was made Parliamentary Secretary for Higher Education and Skills, and Senator Lee Rhiannon especially in relation to her championing of the public VET sector. WAVE, with input from Catherine Davis (WAVE Vic) and Sue Salthouse (WAVE ACT/WWDA) wrote twice to both the Victorian Premier the Hon Ted Baillieu and the Minister for Education the Hon Peter Hall, in relation to TAFE budget cuts in that state, closure of TAFE Colleges and the shutting down of the Auslan Course at Kangan TAFE.

¹ See www.wave.org.au for details of activities, newsletters and reports.

In NSW we also wrote to the NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli, the NSW Minister for Women Pru Goward, and the DDG TAFE NSW Pam Christie. In each of these cases we took the opportunity to introduce WAVE, explain the work we carry out and to seek further meetings or opportunities to meet and discuss issues in common.

As a consequence, the following meetings took place:

- * with Robin Shreeve, CEO of the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency (AWPA) (formerly Skills Australia). We have been added to the consultation list, and subsequently put in a submission to the discussion paper on Australia's workforce development needs;
- * with Senator Lee Rhiannon. We discussed working with the Greens around women and girls working in non-traditional industries, including 'green' industries. WAVE will provide information to the Senator for questions in Parliament;
- * with a policy adviser for the NSW Minister for Women, the Hon. Pru Goward around issues relating to women and girls in adult and vocational education, increasing the numbers of women and girls in non-traditional trades, awards for women in these areas, and increasing TAFE programs targeted at women and girls. We also discussed the newly formed NSW Council for Women's Economic Opportunity, and the lack of educational representation on the Council. This matter was subsequently taken up with Kathy Rankin, General Manager TAFE NSW, who is ex- officio on the committee;
- * with Martin Riordan, CEO of TAFE Directors Australia, and discussed possible ways to highlight the achievements and programs for women and girls in TAFE.

Briefings, Consultations and Submissions

Linda Simon (NSW) went to the March Budget briefing for Family and Community Services. The budget included some funding for mentoring of women in non-traditional trades.

Linda Simon and Menaka Cooke (NSW) attended the briefing by the Hon. Julie Collins, Minister for the Status of Women, on the Federal Government's *Women's Statement 2012 – Achievements and Budget Measures* (FaHCSIA) and programs for women.

Sue Salthouse (ACT) who is also WWDA ACT chair attended a number of events for WAVE (as well as WWDA) in Canberra. Those relevant to WAVE include: -

- UN CSW 56 Briefing held by OfW February 2012. Sue travelled to US for 2nd World Conference on Women's Shelters, and attended CSW 56 as an observer.
- One Just World meeting to discuss women, disability, development and the importance of education.
- Visit of UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet, to Australia – official reception and presentation.

Elaine Butler (national/SA), Linda Simon (NSW), Sue Salthouse (ACT) attended Australian Workforce & Productivity Agency (AWPA) State/Territory Consultations re the Federal Government's National Workforce Development Strategy and AWPA's Discussion Paper- *Future Focus. Australia's skills and workforce development needs* (July 2012) in Adelaide and Sydney

WAVE lodged a formal submission with AWPA in response to the discussion paper (above)

WAVE lodged a formal submission to the Queensland Government's consultation re the Qld. VET sector - *Queensland Skills and Training Taskforce*

Collaboration with other organisations

WAVE has continued building and contributing to relationships with other organisations:

- economicSecurity4Women (eS4W). <http://www.security4women.org.au/>
WAVE has continued as an active member of eS4W, represented by Elaine Butler and Therese Nolan (Linda Simon replaced Therese in August 2012). Menaka Cooke (WAVE NSW) is also a member of eS4W and on Management Group representing Zonta Dist 24 NSW. Elaine has continued input to eS4W through membership of both the Care Economy Working Group, the Education & Training Working Group and, to a lesser extent, the Gender Disaggregated Data Working Group.
 - WAVE, through its reps and input from members, has contributed to reports, submissions (including a submission re the Amendment Bill 2012 for EOWWA) and position papers developed and submitted by eS4W.
 - The WAVE/eS4W 'Viable work' report continues to provide focus, including a Position paper that is used by eS4W (see <http://www.security4women.org.au/wp-content/uploads/eS4W-Position-Paper-Viable-Employment-Women-Girls.pdf>)
 - Correspondence was sent by eS4W in line with Gender data commitments of eS4W and also WAVE & AFGW, to NCVER requesting provision of gender disaggregated data as a matter of course.
 - Elaine Butler attended face-to-face meeting in June. Linda Simon, Sue Salthouse and Menaka Cooke will attend policy round tables (Education & Training; Care Economy) and the launch of the AEC Care Economy report in Canberra 19th September 2012
 - WAVE also signed and distributed e- petitions in support of Queensland Working Women's centre (QWWC), also a member of eS4W, in their fight to continue their service following funding cut by Qld Government.
- Adult Learning Australia (ALA). <https://ala.asn.au/> WAVE continues its association with ALA, including endorsing ALA National Conference. Cecilia Blackwell (WAVE NSW) will attend the 2012 ALA conference at Byron Bay for WAVE.
- Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) <http://www.aspbae.org/> WAVE joined ASPBAE as a member in 2011. In 2012, WAVE will be a voting member at ASPBAE's 6th Assembly and regional Strategic Assessment and Planning Meeting in Cambodia Sept. 21- 24th 2012.
- Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) <http://www.afgw.org.au/> Given our shared focus on education, WAVE enjoys a good working relationship with AFGW, both through eS4W and independently. Relevant CCH alerts are shared with AFGW. AFGW has supported WAVE concerns, by writing independently re cuts to TAFE in Victoria. Both organisations share an interest in CSW55 outcomes, women in science, technology, engineering and maths, the Gonski report, and indigenous education & training.
- AVETRA <http://avetra.org.au/> WAVE & AVETRA share a MoU, and publicise and support each other's events.

2012 Postcard

A 2012 version of WAVE postcard has been designed and continues to be distributed at various events and through the mail, nationally and by States/Territories. The card has been designed for easy transition for 2012/2013 election campaigning, and incorporates key issues obtained through consultations.

The caption for the 2012 Postcard is: *'Give Australian women a fair go! It's the rights' thing to do!'*

WAVE calls on the Australian and State/Territory Governments to:

- Put money back into education and training specifically for women and girls
- Ensure the inclusion of women and girls is intrinsic to VET policies and delivered in every program
- Provide gender sensitive career advice & counselling for women and girls
- Ensure job creation programs & employer-based incentive schemes benefit women equally
- Appoint women with gender expertise to VET committees & Advisory Boards

Celebration 25 years of WAVE

The focal point for WAVE's 25 years celebrations is a National Conference and Dinner, to be held in Melbourne 14th September 2012, with key input and assistance by Catherine Davis (WAVE Vic). The theme of the conference '*Skills for all Australians: What about women and girls*' was selected to centre attention on the Australian Government's 2012 Skills Reform Package, (Skills for all Australians²). TO this end, invited Speakers include Minister for Status of Women, Parliamentary Secretary for Higher Education & Skills, the Chair of National Vocational Equity Advisory Council (NVEAC) & a senior research fellow from University of Melbourne, as well a panel of experts from NVEAC, AEU, Education (academic) and Industry. The information gleaned will be built on by workshops and also a Speak out, prior to a dinner, with guest speaker Alice Pung.

Silver badges were designed and produced to mark this 25th anniversary. These will also be used to raise funds for WAVE.

State Events

New South Wales

NSW held a cocktail event at Meadowbank TAFE College on 20 June 2012, and this was used as an opportunity for the women gathered to discuss:

- * current campaigns for WAVE to pursue
- * networking opportunities
- * strategies to promote WAVE's objectives
- * useful partnerships to pursue

It was interesting to note that two awards were made this year in the NSW Training Awards, for a woman in a non-traditional trade area from the metropolitan area, and one from the regional area, as per the recommendation from this forum.

Projects

WAVE has also developed a proposal for a project to support women in non-traditional trades, and this has been submitted to State Training Services in the NSW Department of Education and Communities, and to the Board of Vocational Education and Training (BVET), which has allocated significant funds to research further into supporting women and girls in VET.

² See: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/Pages/SkillsforallAustralians.aspx>;
<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/Documents/SkillsforAustraliasFuture.pdf>

South Australia

WAVE supported the lobbying and advocacy efforts of wonderful TAFE SA Women's Education students via Facebook et al, in their efforts that resulted in ongoing funding for this most significant Certificate 4 Course- the only one in Australia.

WAVE SA is hosting a major event for WAVE National, with support from the AEU SA. This event is a Symposium: *Education, training and viable work: addressing pathways for women and girls* on Thurs 27th September 2012. Invited speakers include the Hon Kate Ellis MP Minister for Employment Participation (who will launch the WAVE/eS4W Viable work project); Prof Suzanne Franzway (Research Centre for Gender Studies UniSA) & Kym Clutton Manager Workforce Planning & Development & E O Skills DMC- National Skills Industry Council- Drilling, mining, quarrying, civil infrastructure.

Northern Territory

Kate Lawrence resigned as WAVE Coordinator, after being a key person in the WLDP projects WAVE did in 2008/9, and 2010, with Waltja, for whom Kate worked. We thank her for her enormous contributions, and wish her well. We also welcome the new WAVE NT coordinator from the Centre- Joy Taylor, who took up the position from August 2012.

Queensland

Queensland Coordinator, Therese Nolan, participated in the WAVE Planning meeting in Sydney early in the year. She continues her hands on involvement with skills and training from a small business perspective, while also finishing her PhD with a focus on career pathways from secondary schools.

Building membership and capacity

Both the National Conference in Melbourne and the WAVE SA event (both September 2012) have been designed to enhance capacity and grow membership, as has the Postcard campaign. Apart from executive members' collective and individual actions to build membership and capacity, effort has also been directed at communications through WAVE website and WAVE's Facebook Page, both of which are linked.

- **WAVE Website** <http://www.wave.org.au/> Work continues on the updating and enhancing the capacity of the website, including transfer of materials, and archiving where appropriate.
- **Facebook** - See: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/WAVE-Women-Girls-Education-Training-in-Australia/142859425735889?gid=50644841539> Please visit the site, 'like' us, share with your friends and contribute.
- **Newsletters** – WAVE continues to produce regular newsletters outlining significant issues and events, and places these on the website.