

WAVE welcomes key reforms in the 2022-2023 Federal Budget



Women in Adult and Vocational Education (WAVE) a national network of women involved in VET, adult education that advocates for an equitable Australian Vocational Education and Adult Education system for women and girls, welcomes key announcements in this week's Federal Budget.

“The implementation of systemic policy reforms, such as Gender Responsive Budgeting, and use of Gender Impact Assessments to evaluate policy and funding for equality is groundbreaking” said Dr Therese Nolan, National Co-Convenor of WAVE. “We are very pleased to see the return of a robust women’s statement in this budget which rightly describes the key challenge facing Australia’s long-term growth as gender inequity in our community and economy,” said Therese.

“We are especially pleased to see a key focus in the women’s statement on the application of a gender lens on proposals coming out of the Jobs and Skills Summit by the Office for Women in partnership with key government departments. For WAVE the statement clearly recognises the inequality that is present and prevalent through our national skills system” said Kit McMahon National Co-Convenor of WAVE. “Our system in all its forms reflects our labour market which, as we know, is highly segregated across gender lines,” said Kit McMahon. “The Women’s statement in this year’s budget correctly highlights this” she said.

“While we do have concerns about any policy response to this gender inequity in our skills system being only about setting targets for women, we are pleased to see that Jobs and Skills Australia will be undertaking a deep look at the barriers, systems and structures that prevent gender equality in our skills system” said Dr Therese Nolan. “Such as, the recognition of addressing the barriers to women in non-traditional trades, equally as intransigent, and needing to be addressed, are the barriers to men’s participation in care work – we look forward to the opportunity for this being a part of the work that JSA does,” said Therese

Kit McMahon stated, “It will be very important to apply a gender impact assessment to the Federal Budget’s announcements of the Australian Skills Guarantee – targets for women are only one part of the strategy for equality. As we know, simply adding women without building capacity and capability and changing systems and structures does not deliver outcomes.”

WAVE partnered with Gender Equity Victoria to call for the Jobs and Skills Australia legislation to include functions that enable the organisation to provide advice to the Minister on the skills system and its capacity to improve intersectional gender equity, and to undertake skills and labour forecasting that includes gender analysis. WAVE with Gender Equity Victoria, have called for the new Jobs and Skills Australia to have the ability to build the capacity and capability of Australia’s VET and Adult education sector around intersectional gender equity, including undertaking research analysis on gender equal funding, pedagogy/teaching practice, quality, regulation, and student experience.



“Another successful part of this budget is the commencement of the Gender Equality Strategy” said Kit McMahon “This needs to have clear outputs and outcomes for impact written in – not just inputs” Kit said. “If the inequity in our skills system is going to be addressed, then the role of the National Gender Equality Strategy will be key to realising this. along with robust monitoring and evaluation to measure delivery of the strategy and progress towards achieving outcomes.”

“WAVE welcomes any opportunity to work collaboratively with the Federal Government on realising its vision for a gender equal Australia” said Dr Therese Nolan. “We know from our years of experience as a network that it will be collective and collaborative action and work that will make the difference”.

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