



Julie Collins MP
Minister for Community Services
Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development
Minister for the Status of Women

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 7780
Facsimile: 02 6273 7096

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Ms Jane Baker
President
Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc
PO Box 224
ENMORE NSW 2042

Dear Ms Baker

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 2012 about the Australian Government's recent funding commitment to Pacific Island nations to assist women and work towards gender equality in these regions.

The Government recognises that the benefits of gender equality are far-reaching and we are committed to delivering better outcomes for women, both here in Australia and abroad.

I would like to thank the Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) for its support for the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development initiative and to recognise the contribution of AFGW and its affiliate organisations such as the International Federation of University Women. Organisations such as yours are integral to developing women's leadership and presence in decision-making roles in both our country and in the Pacific.

As you know, part of the Government's investment in the Pacific will help to establish partnerships with civil society groups across the region. Given this, I am particularly pleased to hear that Papua New Guinea will be joining the Pacific Graduate Women's Network and look forward to its role in shaping outcomes for women in Papua New Guinea and in the Pacific more broadly.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Collins'.

JULIE COLLINS MP