



***Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.***  
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**www.afgw.org.au**

27<sup>th</sup> November 2014

The Hon Sharon Bird MP  
Shadow Minister for Vocational Education  
PO Box 6022  
Australian Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

Dear Ms Bird,

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc to thank you again for your continuing championing of the VET sector.

As you will know AFGW is the national voice of graduate women working, since 1922, through initiatives in Education for the advancement and wellbeing of women and girls. While our main concerns have traditionally been with Higher Education in the sense of university education, AFGW has increasingly recognised that the blurring of traditional lines between the university and VET sectors, and the growth of pathways between them, means that the VET sector is now a matter to which we should pay greater attention.

We are most concerned by the appalling results of private for-profit providers of VET courses expressed in the Annual Report of the Australian Skills Quality Authority. I have written to both Minister Macfarlane and the Minister for Education expressing our concern. Copies of the letters are attached. Our State education representatives have also been asked to make similar approaches to their State Ministers. Our Victorian president had done so.

We wish you well in what must be a very demanding and difficult shadow portfolio.

‘Tricia Blombery

Convener

Standing Committee for Education

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