

The Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) welcomes the additional information that NCVET has recently been able to provide the VET community in relation to total VET activity. However we continue to raise the issue around the need for detailed gender disaggregated data to be easily accessible and made publicly available without charge.

Australia has responsibilities under international agreements, such as:

CSW 55 *Priority theme* Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work; and

CSW 59 *Post 2015 Agenda* Goal 4. Quality Education (gender reporting and monitoring of the 10 SDG targets)

For these purposes, AFGW believes that the Australian government (and NGO advocates) require comprehensive data around gender that only NCVET is able to provide. Also, the entire VET community including organisations such as AFGW requires the data to advocate for the ongoing education and training needs of women and girls, in order to ensure the government agencies meet their international agreement commitments. AFGW is aware of the importance and necessity of examples of women working in the fields of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), including the skilled trades and also to explore strategies that encourage girls from secondary school and beyond to explore ALL career options. STEM is currently an important AFGW policy area throughout its membership.

We acknowledge the information and advice that NCVET has provided AFGW members in the past. However, we again urge NCVET to establish women and girls as a distinct equity group, so that gender information is completely transparent and able to be distributed widely for use in advocacy and monitoring. Not only is this equity issue relevant to the SDG targets, it is also very relevant in the context of the G20 commitment to a 25 per cent reduction in the gender gap for workforce participation by 2025. For both purposes, we need to know current details of female enrolments and course completions by Field of Education and Level of Course in all annual NCVET publications, as a matter of course.

Dr. Jane Baker
President AFGW Inc