



**THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR EDUCATION**

Our Ref MC14-005096

Dr Madeleine Laming
President
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16 JUN 2014

Dear Dr Laming

Madeleine

Thank you for your letter of 9 May 2014 concerning the update of the Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) framework. I welcome the interest the Australian Federation of Graduate Women has shown in this important policy space. I agree that strong links between schools, industry and training bodies are vital to help ensure students are equipped for participation in the workforce.

As you are aware, I held a VETiS roundtable on 20 February 2014 with stakeholders from the industry, education and training sectors to help formulate strategies to strengthen VETiS in Australia. This national roundtable was the starting point in a series of consultations in each state and territory which aim to provide a better understanding of the way VETiS is operating in each jurisdiction. To date, roundtables have been held in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia.

One of the messages raised consistently at these discussions is the need for close collaboration between the three pillars of the VETiS system – schools, the training sector and industry. This aligns with your observation that the successful outcomes for students are achieved when schools, training bodies and employers work together to identify and provide the skills required by industry.

The agreement by all Education Ministers to establish a working group to update the VETiS framework provides an opportunity to showcase the importance of vocational pathways, work towards greater national consistency and reduce cross-jurisdictional red tape. The working group will commence in June 2014 and comprise representatives from state and territory and other education authorities, the training sector and industry.

Stakeholder views gathered from the roundtables will also inform the new VETiS framework to support students to achieve their potential and make a smooth transition from school to work, not only for their own benefit but to deliver a skilled workforce for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views on this important policy area.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Sussan Ley MP