



Graduate Women WA

Graduate Women (WA) Inc.

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The Hon Peter Collier MLC
Minister for Education
10th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Collier,

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc to commend you on your recent announcement of the significant increase in funding for VET programs in Western Australia. The \$17 million package, which is expected to provide extra places for some 8,800 students, is very heartening. Graduate Women WA also believe that it is a wise investment in the future, and hope that it will also mean that women and girls will have broader access to these VET programs.

For many Australian children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds or where English is a second language, and those from rural and regional areas, the skill base needed to progress to a future career success can be developed within a Vocational Education section of their school. Many students will benefit from being able to continue in a supportive school system while at the same time beginning apprenticeships and obtaining a recognised educational qualification.

A significant factor in reducing youth unemployment was developed in a key 2014 report from McKinsey drawing on samples from youth, employers and government-sector education providers in eight European cities. Programmes of VET training were most successful for transition to work when there was a high level of information for post-secondary courses available in the schools and where courses provided general skills for employment such as spoken communication and work ethics. The highest benefits were achieved when there was close collaboration between the schools, the training bodies and the employers which ensured better identification and provision of the skills required. Graduate Women WA acknowledges that VETiS is strategically placed to facilitate this collaboration.

Once again Graduate Women WA thanks you and your government, for your solid commitment to the VET in Schools programme and hopes you continue to further develop

the scheme to benefit those Western Australian students who choose this pathway to employment.

Wish best wishes,

Graduate Women (WA) Inc
Ms Jasmine Lamb
President
Graduate Women (WA) Inc