



Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.
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9th May 2014

The Hon Sussan Ley MP
Assistant Minister of Education
PO Box 6022
Australian Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Assistant Minister,

I am writing again on behalf of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc to commend you on your success in securing the support of your state and territory counterparts for the updating of the national Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) framework.

As you will know from our letter last March we are concerned that there should not be significant cuts to the Trade Training Centres in Schools. For many Australian children, especially those from rural and regional areas and those from disadvantaged backgrounds, the skill base needed to successfully contribute to society is first developed in the Trades Training Centre in their school. Here they have an introduction to the skills and work values which can lead them to further trades education and apprenticeships. Through VETiS vocational pathways are developed for those who remain in schools but do not wish to pursue University education. The school-based apprenticeships you hope to increase will greatly assist in their preparation for real jobs in the real economy.

We were encouraged to read in your press release of 25th April that a working group of experts drawn from the key stakeholders in schools, the training sector and industry will provide valuable feedback and begin developing policy to guide the reforms in this area. This in some way allays our concerns that you will not overestimate the support you will have from industry and that the apprenticeships offered under the scheme will be of high quality. A significant factor in reducing youth unemployment has been programmes of VET training for transition to work where there is 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 are achieved when there was close collaboration between the schools, the training bodies and the employers ensuring better identification and provision of the skills required. The VETiS updates you suggest in your national, co-ordinated approach are strategically placed to facilitate this collaboration and meet the needs of student and the community.

AFGW wishes you well in your plans to further develop the scheme to benefit Australian students and prepare them to be active participating citizens.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Madeleine M. Laming
President