



Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.

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26 December 2014

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP
Minister of Education and Training
PO Box 6022
Australian Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc to congratulate you on you additional portfolio responsibilities.

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 very pleased that the two sectors are combined again in the same Ministry.

We wrote in November of our concern for the students who enrol with private providers in the VET and the quality of the education they receive. For many students, the training they receive from these private providers will be their once-only chance to receive a government subsidy for their training, so it is crucial that it meets quality standards. We hope that your closer involvement with the problem facing VET since opening the sector to private providers will cause you to consider carefully introducing such a policy for Universities.

Best wishes for success in your expanded Ministry,

Yours sincerely,

‘Tricia Blombery

Convenor Standing Committee for Education

for Dr Madeleine Laming, President AFGW Inc