

Dear Tricia,

Thank you for your letter of 20 September 2015 from the Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) to the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE). I apologise for this belated reply.

Thank you also for the information on your international arm, Graduate Women International, which we have circulated within ATSE.

We are very pleased to be a partner with the Australian Academy of Science in introducing the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) project to Australia. It was very satisfying to see 32 organisations successfully applying to join the pilot program, showing how important gender equity is to our universities and research institutes. We believe SAGE will make a significant difference to the progress of real gender equity in such organisations.

With regard to the promotion of STEM subjects for schoolgirls and STEMM careers for school leavers, ATSE has been a leader in this field for many years. Although not gender specific, its own STELR program has enhanced the learning process for more than 30,000 students at over 300 high schools around the nation - and keeps growing by 30,000 students every year, which we believe is an impressive achievement. This program is a hands-on, inquiry-based, in-curriculum program designed for Year 9 or Year 10 students, on the theme of global warming and renewable energy. Further details are at: www.atse.org.au/atse/content/education/stelr-project.aspx

Overall, ATSE and AFGW are very much aligned to promoting STEM subjects for school students, particularly girls, and ATSE works hard to encourage women to choose and enjoy careers in STEMM fields. Our Gender Equity Policy has a target of one third of all new Fellows elected to the Academy being women, and we have met this target for the last three years. The policy also stipulates inter alia: "ATSE will not support or participate in external activities where the organising body has no gender equity policy or where women are not reasonably represented amongst speakers/panellists, unless there are extenuating circumstances".

On a different matter, AFGW might be interested in a new program for encouraging girls in years 8, 9 and 10 across Australia to take up careers in STEM. It is run by Australian Science Innovations, a small non-profit organisation of which I am a board member. Details are at:

<https://www.asi.edu.au/programs/curious-minds>

Kind regards,

Mark

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