



**THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEADER OF THE HOUSE
MEMBER FOR STURT**

Our Ref MC15-000011

Ms Tricia Blombery
Convener Standing Committee for Education
Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.
11 Park Road
MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204

19 MAR 2015

Dear Ms Blombery

Thank you for your letter of 26 December 2014 concerning the addition of training to my portfolio responsibilities. As you may be aware Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, has appointed Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham as Assistant Minister for Education and Training with a particular focus on skills and vocational education and training.

The Australian Government is committed to overhauling the skills and training system, with a package of reforms that elevate trades and vocational education to the centre of Australia's economy and put the focus squarely on ensuring Australian workers are highly skilled and job-ready.

Through these reforms we will create an efficient and effective vocational education training system that is industry-led, sophisticated and flexible. The most important goal is to ensure Australian business has the workforce it needs to remain internationally competitive and innovative.

I agree it is crucial for all Australian education to be of high quality, whether it is delivered through a public provider or through a private institution. That is why the Government has implemented a robust quality assurance system, including strong national standards and independent national regulators: the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) for vocational education and training, and the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) for higher education.

Thank you for taking the time to pass on your congratulations.

Yours sincerely


Christopher Pyne MP

cc. Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham Assistant Minister for Education and Training.