



SENATOR THE HON SCOTT RYAN
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Our Ref MC14-002360

Dr Madeleine M Laming
President
Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc
PO Box 90
NEDLANDS WA 6009

Dear Dr Laming,

Thank you for your letter of 18 February 2014 on behalf of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women Incorporated supporting the Government's *Trades Skills Centres*.

I note the issues you raised about student representation at the official opening of the Saint Yon Trade Training Centre, Bankstown. I recall female and male students from the project's cluster schools attended the opening with the school captain of La Salle College officially representing students. Facility openings and associated student representation is the responsibility of schools and as such is not a matter for the Australian Government. I am advised that female students access the Saint Yon Trade Training Centre.

The Government is committed to supporting secondary school students who want to undertake vocational education and training at school. This is vital to helping them build great careers and vital to ensuring Australian businesses have continued access to workers with high skills levels needed in a more competitive world economy. For this reason, *Trades Skills Centre* project funding agreements include provisions to strengthen industry engagement and collaboration to improve the delivery of industry relevant vocational education and training in schools. These agreements also contain enhanced provisions to ensure students have access to ongoing support services to assist their transition from school to a post-school pathway.

The employment of TAFE teachers in New South Wales is a matter for the state government. You may wish to raise this matter with the New South Wales Department of Education.

The Government appreciates your support for trades training in schools.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Ryan', written over the printed name.

SCOTT RYAN

25 March 2014