



***Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.***

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**www.afgw.org.au**

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The Australian Federation of Graduate Women are delighted to read of the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) pilot being undertaken by the Australian Academy of Science and the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and of your role in co-chairing the steering committee. An accreditation program which improves the promotion and retention of women and gender minorities in STEMM is an important initiative not only for women and girls but for all Australian science and technology fields.

AFGW is the national voice of graduate women working, since 1922, through initiatives in Education especially for the advancement and wellbeing of women and girls. We view education as essential for empowering people; reducing poverty; improving health; understanding human rights; and, maintaining human security and building peace. We have been especially concerned with the education and employment of women and girls in the less traditional fields of engineering and science. We advocate at state and federal level for improvements in education especially through development of curriculum, provision of resources, and initiatives in training staff. We are proud to have Georgina Sweet, Nancy Millis and many other women of science among our members and fellowship winners.

The promotion of STEM subjects for women and girls is also a central focus for our international arm Graduate Women International (formerly the International Federation of University Women). Enclosed is a copy of the pamphlet which was circulated at the UN Commission for the Status of Women earlier this year. I hope you will find it interesting and the statistics helpful in your further promotion of the importance of STEM education and skills.

In Australia AFGW has endeavoured to promote women's achievements in STEM areas through our national and state scholarships. Each year AFGW, its affiliated state bodies and branches, give over \$0.5 million in scholarships to woman and girls to further their education particularly at tertiary level. Many of these awards go to women studying in the varied fields of science. One of our national fellowships is based on a bequest from Georgina Sweet. We also support a number of education projects for girls in the developing countries.

We look forward to following the success of the SAGE pilot.

Sincerely

Tricia Blombery  
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