



Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.

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12 February, 2016

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham
Minister of Education and Training
PO Box 6100
The Senate
Australian Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I'm writing again on behalf of the women of AFGW to tell you how delighted we are that you have appointed Dr Krystal Evans to the Higher Education Standards Panel.

Krystal's reputation as a leading science and technology advocate will greatly enhance the capacity of the Panel in providing advice on issues relating to STEM courses and promoting their significance for innovation and maintaining Australia's world class higher education system. As a second woman on the panel we hope her place will encourage more women and girls to seek leadership and non-traditional careers.

We have been concerned by news in the press of University admission practices which have admitted students who may not have the educational background and skills to complete their courses. This is both harmful to the students themselves and also the country as their HELP debts are never recovered. We are pleased that the panel will address these problems attempting to ensure that incoming students are "uni-ready" and that universities will be held to account for their public entry requirements.

AFGW is also very aware of the value of Higher Education to the economy both as a significant export and in providing a skilled workforce. The maintenance of our reputation and standards is vital to keeping our hard-earned place in world-class education.

Best wishes with your significant and varied portfolio,

Tricia Blombery
Convener Standing Committee for Education
for Dr Jane Baker, President AFGW