



Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.

PO Box 62 Enmore NSW 2042

www.afgw.org.au

15 March 2016

Dr Michele Bruniges AM
NSW Secretary for Education
Level 2
35 Bridge St
Sydney
NSW 2000

Dear Dr Bruniges,

I write for the many women graduates of AFGW Inc to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary to the Australian Department of Education and Training.

AFGW is the national voice of graduate women working, since 1922, through initiatives in Education for the advancement and wellbeing of women and girls. We view Education as essential for Empowering Women; Reducing Poverty Improving Health; Understanding Human Rights; and, Maintaining Human Security and Building Peace.

AFGW aims to unite graduate women in Australia to work together and with the Graduate Women International's network of sister graduates worldwide to:

- Promote equitable educational opportunities and lifelong learning.
- Improve the status and well-being of women and girls.
- Encourage women and girls to be active leaders and decision-makers in public and private life.
- Inspire and support women graduates to put their education and professional training to the service of the local, national and international community.
- Promote the Vision of AFGW amongst all people, irrespective of their gender, age, race, nationality, religion, political opinion, gender, sexual orientation or other status.

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. We also support a number of education projects for girls in the developing countries.

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 believe your practical experience with teachers and schools and your promotion of the reforms in NSW, especially promoting the needs-based Gonski funding model, will fit you well to handle the complex problems currently besetting the education sector at the national level. We wish to thank you for your work in the NSW department and hope you enjoy the greater focus on Education at a national level.

We wish you well in taking up your new responsibilities.

'Tricia Blombery
Convener Standing Committee for Education
for Jane Baker President

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