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## **Media release**

### **TAFE helps break down gender stereotypes**

Women in Adult and Vocational Education and Training (WAVE) will make sure that the current Senate Inquiry into TAFE does not ignore the educational needs of women and girls.

“We have a number of critical messages that we will take to the Inquiry,” said National Convenor Linda Simon, “and we have outlined these in our submissions to both the Senate and House of Representatives Inquiries.”

“At a time when the Australian economy needs to increase the participation of women and girls in the workforce, it is important that quality education and training is not stripped away.

Governments are busy cutting funding from TAFE and removing regulations that ensure quality provision of vocational education and training, without considering the consequences, especially for some of the most disadvantaged women in our communities.

We are greatly concerned at the recent government announcement that undermines the existence of the National VET Equity Advisory Council, which provided advice to ensure that equity groups, including women, were not ignored in education and training.”

In our submission we call on the Federal Government to:

- restore funding to TAFE as the Government has a commitment to maintain and support the public provider of vocational education and training
- strengthen TAFE's role in providing pathways for many women and girls. Our submission contains stories of the successful transitions that women have made from TAFE to university or sustainable careers
- acknowledge the importance of increasing participation of women and girls in the workforce, and the role of TAFE in helping many women to upskill and reskill to re-enter the workforce
- recognise TAFE's role in helping to break-down gender stereotypes by educating and supporting girls to work in male dominated occupations
- fund and support TAFE's role in providing educational opportunities and support for some of the most disadvantaged women and girls.

This submission has been endorsed by economic Security4Wwomen, a National Women's Alliance.

For further information, contact Linda Simon, National Convenor of WAVE, on 0411 550 439.