



## GRADUATE WOMEN-NSW Inc

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08 February 2022

The Hon. Alister Henskens,  
Minister for Skills and Training,  
Member of the Legislative Assembly,  
Parliament of New South Wales

Dear Minister,

We congratulate you on your appointment to a portfolio that is very significant for the young people of NSW, as well as business, industry and society, and that is the portfolio of Skills and Training – or as you are perhaps more commonly referred to, the Minister for TAFE.

I am writing on behalf of Graduate Women NSW Inc. GW-NSW has worked for over 125 years to empower women through education. We do this chiefly through a range of scholarships across all levels of education, through donations and sponsorships to education bodies both in Australia and overseas, and through advocacy for the advancement of women and girls in education.

We are aware that you are a politician who works through documented strategies and plans, and we look forward to the plans for the next period for TAFE, from 2023 onwards. Of course, we hope that you will maintain the increase in funding for the TAFE sector, as women of all ages will benefit from these changes, especially those in the aged care sector, early childhood and nursing as nursing assistant, as well as in hospitality. TAFE provides such valuable education and training for women and these, among others, are desperately important to the broader well-being of the population of the state. We also hope that the changes to curricula and to digitised approaches to learning and to work practices will continue, as these are fundamental for our future.

We have a request to make of you, one that we believe you could fairly easily implement. In the photos that accompany media releases, or that embellish digital materials, we ask that you consider how to move away from the entrenched view that TAFE is a place where young men learn one of a range of trades, by using photos of women engaged in the excellent training that TAFE provides in such a wide range of fields.

We will follow your work in this new portfolio with interest.

Hilary Yerbury, Education Convenor on behalf of  
'Tricia Blombery  
President  
GW-NSW Inc