



GRADUATE WOMEN-NSW Inc

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Hon Brendon O'Connor MP
Member for Gorton
Minister for Skills and Training
Australian Parliament House
Canberra

Dear Minister O'Connor,

I am writing on behalf of Graduate Women-NSW to congratulate you on the election of a majority Labor government and your appointment as Minister for Skills and Training. I would also like to introduce our organisation to you.

GW-NSW has worked for over 125 years to empower women through education. We view Education as essential for Empowering Women; Reducing Poverty Improving Health; Understanding Human Rights; and, Maintaining Human Security and Building Peace. We work to achieve 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 aim 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.

We believe that your previous experience in this ministry and more recently as Shadow Minister in Employment and Industry will fit you well for this important Ministry. More than ever the rapid changes in industrial processes and technology as we move to a more sustainable future make it imperative that the government take action to provide opportunities in training and reskilling that will fit workers for the society of the future. Cutbacks in TAFE funding, the disastrous and expensive experiments in privatising the sector, and the complete abandonment of support in apprenticeships, have resulted in the collapse of the sector. While we appreciate, much of this is a concern for the state governments, we submit that leadership and policy at federal level is essential to reinvigorate and focus the sector to provide the workers we need for growth and development.

Again we congratulate you and look forward to working with you. We cannot stress enough the importance for our society and the economy of building and focusing our education systems. Please accept our greetings for a fulfilling role in undertaking the complex and challenging tasks of your new Ministry.

'Tricia Blombery
President
GW-NSW Inc

1921-2021 A century promoting women's education

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