



Graduate Women
International (GWI)

Press Release

The Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) brings women together at their Annual General Meeting on the common purpose of empowerment of women and girls through education

Perth/Geneva, 23 October 2015 --The Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) is holding their Annual General Meeting on 24 October, Perth, Australia at St Catherine's College in Nedlands. The yearly event brings together AFGW members from across Australia, hosted by Dr Madeleine Laming from Murdoch University, President of AFGW. Uniting Australian graduate women, AFGW is a vibrant organisation and a national member of Graduate Women International (GWI), an international non-governmental organisation based in Geneva, Switzerland. Together they share a common goal to empower girls and women through lifelong education up to the highest levels. Danièle Castle, Executive Director, and Caroline Staffell, International Development Manager of GWI, will be delivering a workshop at the AGM aimed at developing effective membership strategies and exciting opportunities for members.

Following this event, GWI will hold a Pacific Regional Capacity Building Workshop and policy seminar in Suva, Fiji. The workshop will build the capacities of Pacific associations of graduate women to engage their membership communities and increase their impact to achieve education for girls and women up to the highest levels. GWI will launch its *Girls' Choices* programme in Fiji, proving a proven model for members to support girls to complete secondary school and transition to university, further education or professional work. The policy seminar, entitled *Education in the Pacific: Bridging the Gender Gap* and open to all, will bring together high profile speakers and participants for an interactive panel discussion.

President of GWI, Catherine Bell, stated that "We strongly encourage a variety of stakeholders interested in promoting quality education for girls and across Australia to share insights into the challenges and opportunities that exist in the region. Indigenous and underprivileged populations as well as girls and women in remote areas must have access to education, including in non-traditional forms."

In Cape Town, South Africa, on 24th-26th August 2016, the 96 year-old GWI will hold its 32nd triennial conference. The Conference theme is "At the crossroads of education, gender and human rights" The website (<http://www.gwiconference.org/>) is now open for information and registration.

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 60 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI is in special consultative status with ECOSOC and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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