



GRADUATE WOMEN NSW Inc

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13 October 2023

The Hon Patricia Forsythe AM
c/The University of Newcastle
Callaghan
NSW 2308

Dear Ms Forsythe,

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Chancellor of The University of Newcastle and to acquaint you with the work of Graduate Women-NSW.

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.

Over the years many students from Newcastle have benefitted from our scholarships. With another hat coordinating Awards for the National Council of Women NSW I have dealt with staff in health and education who have provided excellent students for awards

Also our Education Convenor, Dr Hilary Yerbury, has made several submissions to influence decision making in education which may benefit women. Most recently we contributed to the Australian Universities Accord. She focused specifically on a key challenge for us -**real equity for women**, especially those from vulnerable groups, and **Pathways programs** which allow women without formal school leaving qualifications to develop skills and knowledge.

We wish you well and are proud and excited to have a woman of your outstanding calibre in such a significant position in the Australian Education system.

Tricia Blombery
President Graduate Women - NSW