



## GRADUATE WOMEN-NSW Inc

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Hon. Dr Jim Chalmers,  
Treasurer,  
House of Representatives,  
Parliament of Australia.

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of Graduate Women-NSW Inc., an organisation that has worked for over 125 years to empower women through education, developing scholarly and professional expertise at all levels throughout society.

We have expressed concern previously about the ways in which policies of Australian governments, over a number of years, have had disproportionate effects on women, leaving them with debts which, for a number of reasons, can take longer to repay than for a man, leaving them more vulnerable to financial difficulties even years after graduation. Therefore, we have been particularly pleased to acknowledge the recent decision to lower the indexation rate for HECS/HELP debts. We look forward to the passage of the legislation that will enable this.

We also applaud the plan to pay students of teaching, nursing and social work during their prac placements. Similarly, we look forward to the implementation of this plan.

We must, however, at the same time, express our disappointment that the Job-Ready Graduate scheme is still in place for students. It is well documented that this policy disproportionately affects female students and we will not reiterate the arguments here. They have been well rehearsed and you will be familiar with them.

Hilary Yerbury, Education Convenor on behalf of  
Christine Yates  
President  
GW-NSW Inc

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1921-2021 A century promoting women's education

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