



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women
(Inc.)

CANTERBURY BRANCH

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July 28 2009

Hon Nicky Wagner
Parliament Office
Pvte Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Madam

Members of the Canterbury Branch of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women deplore the announcement in the 2009 Budget of significant funding cuts to Adult and Community Education (ACE) programmes.

1. Community education is a long established part of NZ education, and is of proven worth.
2. NZ society is now faced with the need to re-train rising numbers of unemployed.
3. ACE programmes provide key opportunities for many to learn new skills.
4. Social and mental stimulation provided by ACE programmes is a key factor in helping people continue to be actively involved in the wider community.
5. NZ has an increasingly ageing population. Many older people contribute to maintaining key social networks. Involvement in ACE programmes facilitates this.
6. The cuts outlined will disproportionately disadvantage many of the most vulnerable people in NZ society.
7. Government priority during a recession should focus on increasing opportunities for second chance education, to help ensure work skills are maintained.

Rev Dr Barbara A Peddie
President Canterbury Branch
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Shirley C' Ailceta
Vice-President, Canterbury Branch
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