TAFE NSW is committed to achieving equitable vocational education and training outcomes for students from all backgrounds and circumstances. The NSW Charter for Equity in Education and Training underscores this commitment. TAFE NSW recognises the need to move in the vocational education and training of women to assist learning throughout life and to facilitate a shift in the inequitable balance of workforce participation by women. TAFE NSW recognises that the capacity for women to learn and work is a driver for the economic and social strengthening of communities and regions.

The TAFE NSW Women’s Strategy 2004-2010 aims to improve access, participation and outcomes for women students in TAFE NSW and provide a framework against which to measure progress. The TAFE NSW Women’s Strategy 2004-2010 reflects national and state decisions that recognise the needs, for an inclusive and client-focused vocational education and training system, a system which accommodates and values the diversity of women’s lives and experiences and responds to changing industry demand within a global context.

Key Strategic Directions

The following Key Strategic Directions have been developed following wide consultation to provide a comprehensive framework for the continual improvement of the delivery of inclusive and appropriate services by TAFE NSW for all women students. The Key Strategic Directions aim to:

- Provide inclusive and client-focused vocational education and training that meets the multiple and diverse needs of women, taking into account such diverse factors as disability, age, Aboriginality, cultural background, sexuality, language, literacy, numeracy, cost, unemployment, imprisonment and isolation.

- Improve access, participation and outcomes for women in higher qualification award levels and high demand courses.

- Promote opportunities for women to expand occupational choices across a wider range of industry growth areas, including traditionally male dominated areas, which lead to successful employment outcomes.

- Promote flexible and family-friendly delivery options for women, including blended and online learning options.

- Strengthen links between education, industry and community sectors to improve educational and employment pathways for women.

- Support the expertise, creativity, innovation and commitment of staff to improve outcomes for women students.

Vision

To provide women from all backgrounds and circumstances with equitable opportunities to access, participate and achieve positive outcomes in vocational education and training through innovative initiatives which address the diverse needs of women and reflect changing industry and community demands.

Implementation

The Key Strategic Directions of the TAFE NSW Women’s Strategy 2004-2010 will guide the implementation of locally developed initiatives for women through continuing innovation, practice, collaboration and support. TAFE NSW stakeholders should incorporate the Key Strategic Directions into their own management plans within their local contexts. The Key Strategic Directions will be used as the basis for planning and reporting on the performance of TAFE NSW Women’s Strategy 2004-2010 initiatives.

Implementation of the TAFE NSW Women’s Strategy 2004-2010 is supported by several documents that have been developed in consultation with stakeholders. These documents include an implementation framework, a fidelity of delivery guide, performance measures to assist in evaluating the success of local initiatives and identifying areas for further action.

Published by Gender Equity Programs, NSW Department of Education and Training.

For more information on how to implement this strategy contact your Institute Women’s Strategy Contact Officer or Gender Equity Programs.