



RWL4 Symposium Proposal

1. Convenor(s) name(s) and complete contact details	
Name: Joint Convenors/Chairs	Elaine Butler Fran Ferrier
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2. Symposium title	Women, work and learning: Politics, policies and performance
3. Symposium abstract (max 300 words):	<p>The last decade has been characterised by discourses of globalisation, neo-liberalism, and by a strengthening neo-conservatism. In this context, 'women' has become an increasingly problematic policy category.</p> <p>This Symposium aims to foreground research and theory that centres women as worker/learners. It seeks to redress the problematic positioning of 'women' that is increasingly evident, especially in Anglophone countries.</p> <p>The Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) 2006 has identified education, health and work as its foci for global attention. Symposium speakers will address questions including: What <i>is</i> happening in research and theoretical work that focuses on women, and work related learning? What are the trends? Issues? Theoretical challenges? What futures are possible for women-centred investigations?</p>
4. Goal or purpose of the symposium	<p>Through an opportunity to consider research with a central interest in 'women' in depth, this Symposium also seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• discuss and debate papers from a range of theoretical and methodological approaches;• consider and debate commonalities and differences in findings and so identify futures possible research initiatives and potential for collaboration;• establish a local/global network with an interest in researching women, work and learning, in all its diversities.
5. A preliminary list of speakers indicating whether they have already committed to give a talk, or just expressed interest in participating of the symposium.	<p><u>WAVE</u> is currently completing a series of 5 research projects under an umbrella of lifelong learning, women and work, (Girls and young women, and VET in schools; women retraining or returning to work; women in micro and small businesses; indigenous women; women from low ses) for Security4Women (S4W). It is anticipated that these papers will be delivered (and maybe launched) a</p>



this conference.

The co convenors will each present papers

The preferred manner to attract papers would be to distribute a Call for papers for this symposium, to RWL4 expressions of interest, mailing lists, as well as personal networks.

Email contact has been made with key scholars in the area nationally and internationally. Responses have indicated support for the idea.

Contact is also in place with TAFE providers.