

SUBJECT: Welcome back to all Learn Local providers and to a great 2022



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8 February 2022

Dear colleagues,

Welcome back for another year. A year where, as a sector, we will continue to contribute to the important economic recovery goals of the Victorian Government by providing tailored educational opportunities for so many Victorians across the state who need to get a job or change jobs, work on their computer and/or language skills or gain essential core skills in response to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of the Adult, Community and Further Education Board (the Board), I hope you are well and that you managed to have a relaxing break after another challenging year with so much great work done by the sector to innovate and adapt to the changing needs of learners among significant disruption and uncertainty. The Board looks forward to continuing to be working with, and for, the sector again to ensure we continue to support our learners to develop their skills for study, work and life with flexible and relevant Learn Local courses delivered via innovative place-based partnerships and organisations with strong connection to their communities across the state.

Though 2022 may still present some ongoing challenges due to the pandemic, it will also be an exciting year building on the sector's strong foundation and the achievements and lessons from 2021, as we take further steps together to realise our Minister for Training and Skills' vision for the Learn Local sector via the Ministerial Statement on the Future of ACE in Victoria 2020-2025. Last year brought a number of significant changes to the way the Victorian skills system works following Jenny Macklin's 'Skills for Victoria's Growing Economy' review (or 'the Macklin Review'), including the creation of the Victorian Skills Authority, the Office of TAFE Coordination and Delivery; and a dedicated Adult, Community and Further Education Division and Executive Director position within Higher Education and Skills (Department of Education and Training; the Department) to better support the Board to achieve the goals of the Ministerial Statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Training and Skills also conducted a review to strengthen the operation of ACFE Regional Councils which contained a number of recommendations, which the Board, Regional Councils and the Department is working hard to implement. We are also working to strengthen understanding of good governance via the drafting of new ACFE System Governance Guidelines for all key stakeholders.

The Board has developed and approved its priorities for 2022 and is working with Regional Council chairs to ensure that efforts across 2022 are focused and coordinated to ensure alignment with these priorities and those of the Minister for Training and Skills, as expressed in the annual Ministerial Statement of Expectations, which we received in December. Finally, two Ministerial appointments to the Board have occurred over the break, Ms Deborah Sansom and Mr Ekrem Ozyurek (OAM), both of whom have extensive experience in community, not-for-profit and education sectors. The appointments filled existing vacancies, bringing the Board to a total of 12 members. I think you will be pleased with the expertise and insight that both will bring to the Board in supporting learners and the Learn Local sector. Existing Board members Margaret Lewis and Penelope Wilson, whose terms were due to expire on 12 May and 30 April 2022 respectively, have been offered and accepted short-term extensions to 30 June 2022 to create a stronger

alignment with Government's timelines for vacancies, which will be filled through an open and competitive recruitment process in the coming months.

My colleagues and I look forward to seeing you at one of the planned 'sector sessions' we'll be holding later in the year or the Learn Local Conference, which is being planned for mid-year. I am also really looking forward to being able to commence not only virtual visits but also face-to-face visits with your organisations when it's suitable for staff and learners.

Here's to a rewarding year for our learners and all of us working together to promote and celebrate the incredible value of the Learn Local sector in Victoria through exceptional planning, delivery, and strategy.

Best wishes

Maria Peters
Chairperson
Adult, Community and Further Education Board
