

SUBJECT: 2023 Board Priorities and thank you



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Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board, I hope the year has started well. We are still hearing many positive messages from providers about the level of engagement and interest in Learn Local delivery from individuals across our communities which is very pleasing.

I want to acknowledge the Learn Local Awards gala ceremony held on February 24th which was a wonderful celebration of our learners and everything about the sector. Congratulations to all finalists and recipients of the awards. Please take a look at some great [photos](#) from the event. I also want to thank the Minister, Sally Brennan, and Jennie Barrera for their very kind words regarding my upcoming retirement after 31 March as ACFE Board chairperson. Many of you came up to speak to me, it was very special to be able to catch up with so many of you, especially as it was my last Learn Local Awards gala ceremony.

I am now able to provide you with the ACFE Board's 2023 priorities. These priorities have been aligned to the annual Statement of Expectations Minister Tierney provides to the Board each year, which the Board needs to deliver on.

The Board with support from the ACFE Division have developed these priorities, which clearly articulate the strategic focus and the expected outcomes of the Board, and which aim to further progress the Minister's vision for the Learn Local sector expressed in the Ministerial Statement and the Board's own Strategy. Advice and input from the sector and our Regional Councils has been factored into the Board's strategic thinking, focus and outcomes wherever possible. I hope you can see this.

The ACFEB 2023 priorities are attached. As advised previously, the priorities are underpinned by a set of key principles that the Board felt were important to guide the work of the ACFE Division, to achieve the Board's strategic intent and measures both short term and for the future.

2023 builds on strategic work from previous years across our learners, our people, our partners and the Board's leadership and focus aligned to the Ministerial Statement on the future of Adult Education. This year our focus strongly remains on our commitment to engaging individuals in our communities to ensure that those who would benefit from pre accredited Learn Local delivery are supported and that there are a range of initiatives to support the sector to best meet learner needs. Our sector is part of the wider educational skills system. Our innovative and different approaches and work can be further strengthened by supported partnership efforts with community agencies, employment organisations, industry partners, TAFE institutes and local government, ensuring the sector is recognised as a critical element of the post-secondary system in Victoria, the Victorian Skills Plan and the placed-based local solutions to meet workforce and community needs. The shift of the ACFE Division to the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industries and Regions should also open better linkages to industry and employment service agencies and enable more opportunities to participate in emerging programs and initiatives enabling learners' success in their chosen training and employment pathways.

We need to ensure that we continue to work to strengthen the Learn Local sector's role as part of the post-secondary education system in this state. I am sure that the sector and Board, with the support of the department, will continue to strive to support our learners and demonstrate ongoing commitment, resilience, and great work to achieve the Minister's vision. It has been an honour to have been involved with the Learn Local sector to implement such an important reform agenda and to be able to advocate for its work, its impact, and its value.

I want to thank you all for what you do; it has been a true honour to lead the ACFE Board for nearly five years and to work with you. My commitment to the sector remains. I will continue to be its champion.

As I said at the awards, Victoria stands tall and sets a strong example for other states and territories to follow in terms of ensuring the flexibility of adult community education programs through a sector that has education at its heart, that is inclusive and provides learners with strong outcomes as well community impact across Victoria. I have worked across many sectors over my career and loved every one of them. It is however very fitting to finish being part of a sector that epitomises why I became an educator in the first place.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Peters', written in a cursive style.

Maria Peters

Chairperson

Adult, Community and Further Education Board
