



Update on Board strategic planning, sector input

19 July 2022

Dear colleagues,

Our sector's value and commitment has yet again been proven over the past couple of months as you all manage the ongoing impacts of the COVID pandemic. The ACFE Board is very aware that the work the sector has done to keep learners engaged has a real and lasting impact on your learners themselves, but also takes a toll on your staff and your organisations. For the most recent guidance from the Victorian Government for higher education and skills providers, please see the latest advice [here](#).

This is a long communique but there are some key matters to update you on after the term break.

Board decision on eligibility and evidence requirements

After hearing concerning feedback from the sector on the administrative burden of evidence requirements and the impact of eligibility criteria on certain learner cohorts and to assist engagement of learners, the Board is considering opportunities and has asked the department to work on streamlining pre-accredited learner eligibility criteria and the associated documentation requirements. At its meeting of 28 June 2022, the ACFE Board approved revising eligibility criteria for participation in government subsidised ACFE pre-accredited training. The following key characteristics will constitute revised eligibility and evidence requirements for participation in Board-funded training, being:

- a. an Australian citizen, or
 - i. a holder of an Australian permanent visa
 - ii. a New Zealand citizen
 - iii. an Asylum seeker/refugee granted temporary protection holding a valid visa that confers eligibility for Skills First training.
- b. Where no documentation confirming citizenship can be produced, an authorised delegate of the training provider can grant eligibility on face value
- c. being 17 years of age and over and not enrolled at school, or under 17 and not enrolled at school with an exemption from school.

With respect to asylum seekers, the ACFE Board has removed the requirement for referral by Jobs Victoria Employment Service providers to pre-accredited pre-employment programs. Additionally, as new visa classes are added to the eligibility criteria for government-funded Skills First accredited training, they will automatically be reflected in the criteria for government-funded pre-accredited training eligibility.

A formal memo will be released shortly by the ACFE Division on both of these areas.

ACFE Board 'Pulse Checks' and Sector Sessions

Thank you to all those providers that have attended one of the online 'Pulse checks' and or 'ACFE Board and Sector Sessions'. These sessions have been a wonderful opportunity for the Board to engage with you and to hear directly from our providers as this assists our thinking, planning and decision making.

Board members provided an overview of our key priorities and work for 2022, sought your input into how

that work can be built on, shared some of our thinking as well as getting your input into what else should be considered for next year aligned to achieving the goals of the Ministerial Statement for the sector and its learners. We have greatly appreciated all the ideas and feedback you have provided regarding how the Board can further support your organisations and learners. We have also valued the very open dialogue about the challenges you are facing during these times and reinforcing the critical aspects of what is important to your work as Learn Locals. The information gained from the sessions is vital and timely as it will assist the Board's thinking and inform our strategic planning for 2023 which we are about to commence.

Professional Practice and Recognition Framework drafting and consultation process

I wish to provide an update on one of the ACFE Board's key priorities for 2022- the development of a Professional Practice and Recognition Framework for the Learn Local workforce. The project will develop a Framework that will not only recognize the skills, knowledge and talent of the Learn Local workforce but provide a framework to consider professional development needs to support educators and leaders aligned in the vision for the sector in the Ministerial Statement.

The ACFE Board has been and is committed to continuing to invest in the Learn Local workforce as one of its four strategic directions as this is critical and important to do so if we are to support our learners and support you.

Escalier McLean Consulting has recently been commissioned to draft a Professional Practice and Recognition Framework for consultation with Learn Local providers, ACFE's Expert Advisory Panel, ACFE Peak organisations and department staff in the ACFE division.

The draft Framework that Escalier McLean Consulting is building is based on sector views already expressed about the skills and knowledge required to perform their jobs and the recent Learn Local educator profiling project. Escalier McLean Consulting has also reviewed various other workforce capability frameworks in other education subsectors in Australia and New Zealand and in the health, community, and human service sectors to inform the draft Framework.

Escalier McLean Consulting will start soon consultations on the draft Framework. You will be invited to participate in a face-to-face or online sessions. The ACFE Board looks forward to hearing the views of staff within Learn Local providers on the draft Framework. We want a final Framework that has support within the sector, is accessible and relevant and will support our workforce development needs as well as also recognising their skills.

Nominations for the 2022 Victorian Learn Local Awards

Nominations for the 2022 Learn Local Awards have been extended **until 25 July.**

If you have started an application, but weren't able to complete it, this extra time will allow you to finish your application and I though I know you have many commitments, can I strongly encouraging you to do this. We have asked for additional resources to be provided to support nominations that are in train to be competed so please use the free nomination assistance by sending an email to learnlocal@education.vic.gov.au. If you haven't started a nomination yet there is still time for you as well and you can be supported to do this. Please go to the [Learn Local Awards website](#) to review the award categories and find out how to submit a nomination.

Thank you to all of you who have nominated, during times like this it's important to not lose sight of the wonderful work you all do and what your learners achieve. The Board is very much looking forward to celebrating the achievements of the sector with you at the Gala event in October.

2022 Learn Local Conference

The Board is very excited to host the upcoming 2022 Learn Local Conference after a hiatus of four years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department and Board members on the Conference Working Group have been working hard to plan a great Conference this year, with some exciting international and local speakers and a range of sessions to showcase the incredible work of the sector.

The Hon. Gayle Tierney, MP, Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Higher Education and Minister for Agriculture, will open day one of the Conference, with keynote speaker Mark Cabaj, president of Here to There Consulting from Edmonton Canada, joining via Zoom to explore the importance of place-based collaboration and community engagement to facilitate collective impact and purposeful community development outcomes.

Day one will also include panel presentations and table discussions on a number of topics, with a full program to be released shortly. The Conference dinner will feature guest speaker, Australian writer and activist, Van Badham, a weekly columnist for Guardian Australia and Vice-President of the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance Victoria, also featured in regular guest appearances on Radio National and ABC's Q&A.

Day two will enable participants to choose options from eight 'Deep Dive' presentations that explore the following themes: Professional Development, Collaboration, Working with Industry and Digital Learnings.

The Conference will conclude with a Look into the Future with Emma Dawson, Executive Director of PerCapita, an independent progressive think tank dedicated to fighting inequality in Australia. Please register your attendance [here](#).

The conference is also a wonderful opportunity to catch u , network and just see colleagues face to face. I know Board members and Regional Council members who are a planning to attend are really looking forward to the program but most importantly to see and chat with you.

Visits to Learn Local providers

Finally, I would like to say thank you to those Learn Local providers that have hosted either the Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary, myself, and other Board members. The time and effort you take to arrange these visits are most appreciated. We value the insight and learnings that we gain, the feedback we receive from our discussions and seeing first-hand the wonderful work of your organizations. More visits for the Board are currently being planned for regional areas for this half of the year.

As always, please take care, stay safe and thank you again for all that you do.

Best wishes on behalf of the ACFEB

Maria Peters
Chairperson
Adult, Community and Further Education Board
