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

1 March 2022

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board, I hope you are well and that you managed to have a relaxing break after another challenging year.

Last year great work was done by the sector to innovate and adapt to the changing needs of learners despite significant disruption and uncertainty. Again, this year your focus will be to nurture our learners and strengthen their confidence to realise their goals, contribute to our communities and the important economic recovery agenda of the Victorian Government. We will do this by continuing to provide tailored educational opportunities for so many Victorians across the state who can build their core skills through place based, innovative pre-accredited delivery offered by Learn Locals. We will, where needed, strengthen our impact as we work in partnership with local organisations and industry that are committed and connected to their communities. The Board looks forward to continuing to work with, and for, the sector again this year.

I am aware that as you welcome students back to your organisations that there are many who are still reluctant to engage in face-to-face delivery and that anxiety is felt by staff as well. We hope over time this will change. But we remain impressed that to mitigate this and to suit different learning styles and needs, that many of you are offering your learners different ways to engage in pre-accredited education and training. Thank you.

Though 2022 may still present ongoing challenges, it will also be an important year to work together to build on the sector's strong foundation and the achievements and lessons from last year to ensure we best position the sector in the post-secondary system. It is critical that we take further steps together to realise our Minister's vision for the Learn Local sector, that you are supported to do this as are our learners to achieve their dreams.

The main update I wish to provide on behalf of the Board is to share the Board priorities for 2022. Considerable thinking and effort have been undertaken by the Board and the ACFE Division to develop these priorities, clearly articulate their strategic focus and the expected outcomes of the work. It has also been important that the priorities are aligned to the annual Statement of Expectations from Minister Tierney that were received in December 2021 which the Board needs to deliver on. We are also strengthening our work with the Regional Council chairpersons and members to ensure that efforts across 2022 are not only relevant for local communities and their needs but are focused, coordinated and aligned to the annual expectations of the Minister for Training and Skills and the Board's priorities.

The 2022 ACFE Board priorities include new areas of work as well as building on the work from the last two years. They have been developed taking into consideration the input from and consultation with the Minister, Regional Councils, the sector, the Department, and key stakeholders. In addition to this, the Board has taken an active leadership role in determining what is strategically important, best for our

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outcomes into clear implementation plans that include key projects and actions for each of the Board's four strategic themes of our learners, partners, people and the Board. As part of this journey, the Board balances expectations and input each year, but I hope that you can see many of the priorities reflect your advice on learner and sector needs. Please see the [2022 Board priorities summary](#) on the Learn Local Sector website for your information.

I realise that simply reading these priorities may not fully explain or provide clarity of the work for 2022 and how it will support you and learners. So, once your initial planning and busy time settles, the Board is planning to hold information sessions in late March 2022 for those who may be interested. We plan to explain the annual priorities in some detail, update the sector on other key matters including governance, regional councils, key policy work and the impact of the significant changes to the Victorian skills system for our sector and the Board.

Later in May 2022, as we did last year, we will hold interactive sector sessions, to consult further with you about needs and seek your views and input for the next planning cycle. We are also keen to check with you how the year is unfolding and take the opportunity to have genuine two-way dialogue.

Finally, it is my great pleasure to advise of two Ministerial appointments to the Board that have occurred over the break. I would like to welcome 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 and you can be pleased with the expertise and insights that both bring to the Board to fulfill its roles and responsibilities and in supporting learners and the Learn Local sector.

My colleagues and I look forward to seeing you at one of the sector sessions, at the Learn Local Conference, which is being planned for August 2022 and of course the Learn Local Awards later in the 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 is suitable for staff and learners.

Here's to a good and rewarding year for our learners and all of us working together to promote and celebrate the incredible work and value of the Learn Local sector in Victoria.

Best wishes

Maria Peters
Chairperson
Adult, Community and Further Education Board

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