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|  **Higher Education and Skills Group** Department of Education and Early Childhood Development |
| **Participation Branch Memorandum** |
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**To: Workplace Learning Coordinators**

 **Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs)**

**From: Bronwen Heathfield, Director, Participation Branch**

Subject: Release of the impact evaluation for the Workplace Learning Coordinators Program

Date: 11 March 2014

In 2013, Synergistiq Pty Ltd was engaged by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to undertake an impact evaluation of the Workplace Learning Coordinators (WLC) Program.

The WLC program was implemented in mid-2010 under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions (NPYAT). The NPYAT is a joint initiative of the Commonwealth and state and territory governments to increase participation of young people in education and training, increase attainment levels and improve successful transitions from school.

Under Victoria’s implementation plan, nearly $20 million was invested in the WLC program to the end of 2013. WLCs are located across Victorian Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) areas to facilitate workplace learning experiences for students enrolled at a range of education and training providers.

Synergistiq submitted a final report outlining their findings and making the following recommendations:

1. That the functions performed through the WLC program be continued beyond the current funding round.
2. That a review of the WLC program structure and funding model be undertaken in early 2014 with a view to incorporating strategies to build on the success of the program.

Funding under the NPYAT expired at the end of 2013 and the Commonwealth budget did not make further provision for this initiative. On 27 August 2013, the Victorian government announced that it would provide funding of $5.1 million for continuation of the WLC program to allow their continued operation in 2014.

The Victorian government will work with the Commonwealth government to negotiate arrangements beyond 2014. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation present an opportunity to inform any future directions in relation to support for workplace learning. In particular, building on the legacy of networks established and the strategies to increase capacity and quality have positioned Victoria for better ways to leverage workplace learning.

Synergistiq’s final report is available to download from the WLC webpage: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/pathways/Pages/coordinators.aspx>

**Bronwen Heathfield**

Director

Participation Branch