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| Higher Education and Skills Group  **Participation Branch Memo**  **Department of Education and Training** |

***NUMBER:*** *2015 / September / 15*

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations  *– ALL* | ACFE Board  *– ALL* | ACFE Regional Councils  *– ALL* |
| Adult Education Institutions  *– ALL* | Learn Local stakeholders  *– ALL* | LLENs  *– Chairs and Executive Officers* |
| Participation Branch staff |  |  |

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

**DATE:** 15/09/15

**SUBJECT:** *Winners of 2015 Victorian Learn Local Awards*

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

* *Please note and congratulate the winners of the 2015 Victorian Learn Local Awards.*

**The Minister for Training and Skills, the Hon Steve Herbert MP and the Acting Chair of the ACFE Board, Ron Wilson announced the winners of the 2015 Victorian Learn Local Awards at a celebration of the sector at the Collingwood Town Hall on Thursday 10 September.**

**See** [*http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/2015-learn-local-award-winners-announced*](http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/2015-learn-local-award-winners-announced)

**The awards recognise excellence in the Learn Local sector across five award and two acknowledgement categories with winners sharing in a total prize pool of $50,000.**

**This year’s winners were:**

**Outstanding Pre-accredited Learner – Karen Hokai, East End Community House**

Karen Hokai is in her second year of the Spadework program at East End Community House. As a result of her work, the centre is doubling the size of its community garden. Karen is also the motivating force behind a new social enterprise that markets vegetable seedlings through local outlets.

**Outstanding Practitioner – Karen Fleischer, Paynesville Neighbourhood Centre**  
Karen Fleischer is the Manager and a trainer for the Paynesville Neighbourhood Centre. For the past 23 years, she has dedicated herself to the development and growth of the Centre into a respected brand in the East Gippsland Community. Her work developing new programs ensures the Centre meet the changing needs of the community.

**Outstanding Pathways Program – Creating Pathways into the Community, Shepparton Access**

The Shepparton Access Creating Pathways into the Community program is an integrated approach designed to help learners achieve their goals. The team encourages each learner to create their own community inclusion plan, empowering them to make their own choices about the future.

**Excellence in Creating Local Solutions – BizE Centre,** **YouthNow**  
YouthNow’s BizE Centre in Brimbank provides training for multicultural youth facing employment barriers. In a setting that is exactly like an entry level job, the Centre lets young people develop employability skills and confidence in the workplace, while assisting staff with real and meaningful work.

**AMES Diversity Innovation Award – Job Ready, Lifestyle and Karen Language programs, Nhill Learning Centre**  
The Nhill Learning Centre’s Job Ready, Lifestyle and Karen Language programs are a practical, hands-on approach to cultural exchange. Their Karen language classes and Karen cooking classes have had an enormous impact on the community, with more than 50 local residents participating.

**Learn Local for Business – Barker Trailers and Kyneton Community and Learning Centre**   
The Barker Trailers Workplace Literacy Program, developed with the Kyneton Community and Learning Centre, delivered Workplace English Language and Literacy training aimed at the highly specific language of engineering. Delivered over 40 hours on-site at Barker Trailers, it broke down cultural barriers, built a more open environment, and improved job satisfaction.

**Learn Local Legends:**

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| Barwon South Western Regional Council Portland WorkSkills |
| Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council Pines Learning |
| Gippsland Regional Council Buchan Neighbourhood House |
| Grampians Regional Council Meredith Community Centre |
| Hume Regional Council Pangerang Community House |
| Loddon Mallee Regional Council Kyneton Community and Learning Centre |
| North Western Metropolitan Regional Council Wyndham Community and Education Centre |
| Southern Metropolitan Regional Council Port Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre |

Congratulations to all of this year’s winners!