**Family Learning Support Program 2016**

**Key messages:**

* The Family Learning Support Program was introduced to increase opportunities for adult learners to learn where the cost of child care is a barrier to participation.
* The program funds can be used to fully or partially subsidise the cost of child care where affordability is a significant barrier to participation in Government subsidised training (accredited or pre-accredited) at a Learn Local organisation.

**What are the changes to the Program in 2016?**

Based on feedback from participating Learn Local organisations, two changes have been made to the Program for 2016:

* Funding can now be used to cover the gap between the Child Care Benefit and the cost of child care to limit out of pocket costs for learners;
* Funding will now be paid in instalments to align with the payment of pre-accredited hours.

**Who is eligible for funding?**

To be eligible for FLSP funding an organisation must be a Victorian Learn Local organisation registered with the ACFE Board.

**Which learners are able to receive subsidised child care via the Program?**

To be eligible an adult learner must be:

* A parent, carer or guardian of a child or children (aged between 0-6 years and not enrolled at school) for which they require child care;
* Enrolled in and attending Victorian Government subsidised accredited or pre-accredited training at an eligible Learn Local organisation and need occasional child care during class hours;
* Experiencing a significant barrier to participation in learning as a result of the cost of child care.
* For learner’s *ineligible* to receive the Child Care Benefit funding may be used to help subsidise the cost of child care;
* For learner’s *eligible* to receive the Child Care Benefit funding may be used as a top up to cover the gap between the Child Care Benefit and the cost of childcare.

**How must the funds be used by LLOs?**

FLSP funds must be used:

* + - * To assist learners enrolled in Government subsidised training at a Learn Local organisation to access child care during class time to enable their participation in training;
* For occasional day care only (a maximum of 5 hours per day or 15 hours per week).

Funding must only be used to subsidise occasional child care places at registered and licensed children’s services and not to employ additional staff such as babysitters or to buy additional equipment.

**Who calculates the subsidy amount paid towards the child care place?**

Each Learn Local organisation is expected to calculate and administer its own subsidy amount based on local need. To help with this example case studies are included on page 10 of the Toolkit included in the Program Guidelines.

**How much funding will each LLO receive?**

The total grant paid to participating Learn Local organisations depends on a range of factors. These factors include the:

* number of Learn Local organisations that participate in FLSP each year;
* volume of training a Learn Local organisation delivers.

Funding for 2016 will also vary depending on the number of Learn Local organisations that opt-in for FLSP and any reconciliation payments outstanding from 2014.

**What is happening with reporting for the 2015 program?**

An email will be sent out over the coming weeks to advise about reporting dates for LLOs currently participating in the program.

**Do providers currently receiving funding need to opt into the program for 2016?**

Yes, they must complete the EOI form or they will be opted out. Any unspent funds from 2014 will be subtracted from their 2016 payment (not including the transition subsidy).

**When will payment be made to providers?**

Payment will be made in instalments to align with payment of pre-accredited hours.

**When will LLOs be notified of their funding amount?**

LLOs will be notified in December about their funding amount.