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

***NUMBER:*** *2016 / July / 12*

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| Learn Local organisations *– ALL*  | ACFE Board | ACFE Regional Councils |
| Adult Education Institutions | Learn Local stakeholders  | Participation Branch staff |

**FROM:** Verna Kearney, Acting Director, Participation Branch

**DATE:** 12/07/2016

**SUBJECT:** *Adult Learners’ Week 2016 – Lots of ways to get involved!*

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

* *Organise an event to help celebrate 2016 Adult Learners’ Week – register it on the ALW website by 30 July 2016 to be in with a chance to win 1 of 10 $250 grants.*
* *Promote the learner competition to your learners – details below.*

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Adult Learners’ Week (ALW) in Australia is part of an international festival of adult learning. Each year, ALW is celebrated with hundreds of events and activities designed to promote the benefits of learning – in the home, at work and in the community – and to highlight the many options available.

ALW also provides an opportunity for informed discussion about the current provision of adult learning in Australia and to consider what improvements are needed to take Australia forward.

In Australia, ALW is supported by the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training and is coordinated nationally by Adult Learning Australia (ALA). It is celebrated from the 1st to the 8th of September.

One of the ways the ACFE Board helps to celebrate ALW is by holding the Victorian Learn Local Awards during the week. This year, the Awards are being held on Thursday 8 September. Look out for further information.

**2016 Theme**

This year the theme of ALW is ‘Learn outside the square’. This theme addresses the common misconception that learning ends with schooling. ALW is about showing the breadth of opportunities available for adults who want to learn. It also demonstrates how learning benefits you, me, our communities and society as a whole.

**Learner competition**

During ALW 2016, ALA will be giving away **iPad Air 2s (64GB) to four lucky learner winners**. All learners’ need to do is show ALA how they are learning outside the square during ALW. More information, including the Terms and Conditions, are available on the ALW website: <http://www.adultlearnersweek.org/join-in-to-win/>

**Run an event**

ALA invites Learn Local organisations to run an event during ALW 2016. You could:

* provide short courses or taster sessions to give learners an insight into the classes you offer
* invite speakers – such as former students – to talk about the impact of learning in their lives
* encourage individual people and groups to have a go at learning
* celebrate the learning achievements of your staff/volunteers
* announce or launch a new course or new initiative
* badge open days and events with the ALW branding.

Get your ALW event registered on the [ALW website](http://adultlearningaustralia.cmail20.com/t/j-l-ktuulrd-qiljlbik-w/) before 30 July 2016 and you have the chance to win 1 of 10 $250 grants. This money can be used to help you run your event during ALW. There are also $1,000 cash prizes on offer for the best ALW events chosen around Australia. So get involved!

**ALW media strategy and resources**

ALA will be coordinating an ALW national media strategy. There are resources available on the ALA website so you can brand your ALW events. You can check them out here: <http://www.adultlearnersweek.org/downloads/>

Your involvement

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The real success of ALW comes down to your involvement. You can help by registering and running fantastic ALW events and using the ALW resources to engage your communities. ALA and the ACFE Board will be doing everything they can to promote the week.

You can also get involved with ALW through social media. All you need to do is use these hashtags **#ALW2016** and **#learnoutsidethesquare** on your own social media channels including:

* **Facebook**
* **Twitter**
* **Instagram**
* **YouTube**

ALA will be using these hashtags to inspire and encourage everyone to participate.

Please help ALA and the ACFE Board make ALW this year a massive success. For more information, please call 1300ILEARN or email ALA at info@ala.asn.au