# Department of Education and Training

# Higher Education and Skills Group

# Participation Branch Memo: *2018 / March / 27*

**TO: Learn Local organisations - *ALL***

 **ACFE Board**

 **ACFE Regional Councils**

 **Adult Education Institutions**

 **Learn Local Stakeholders**

 **Participation Branch Staff**

**FROM:** Ryan CollinsDirector - Participation Branch

**DATE:** 27 March 2018

**SUBJECT:** Learning Aware Families (LeAF) package

## Actions / Critical Dates:

* *To inform Learn Local Organisations about the Learning Aware Families package.*

## Important Notice about Communications

The Learning Aware Families Package **(LeAF)** package is a comprehensive family learning support program established by the ACFE Board to improve educational pathways for families. This package will assist Learn Locals Organisations (LLOs) to support more families into learning pathways.

Family learning programs have a positive educational impact on the entire family including children and adults. Research shows that family learning and the educational attainment of parents produces positive educational outcomes for the child – a kind of ripple effect.

LeAF seeks to overcome the barriers hindering the participation of parents and carers in training and education and includes:

**Flexible Family Support** (FFS) grants – childcare services

FFS grants will increase opportunities for adult learners to participate in pre-accredited or accredited training.

FFS grants provide funds to education providers (LLOs), to purchase the cost of childcare while parents participate in government-subsidised training at the LLOs. The funding covers the cost of occasional child care, long day care or a playgroup coordinator service.

The 2018 FFS grants program is only open to 2017 Family Learning Support Program (FLSP) providers via an Expression of Interest (EOI) process. The assessment of the applications is underway and successful providers will be advised by April. In future years (from 2019), eligibility to apply for FFS grants will be broadened to include LLOs with a current ACFE Board registration and that are delivering pre-accredited training.

 **Family Learning Partnerships Plus** program – establishing educational networks, supports and best practice education approaches.

Family Learning Partnerships Plus (FLP+) is based on the successful FLP program, but with strengthened resourcing to allow providers to implement more robust and sustainable programs.

The FLP Program (2017 to 2018) aims to engage and support parents to participate in learning and to set them on a pathway towards further education and employment.

To achieve this, the FLP Program:

* forms strong collaborative partnerships between LLOs and other education or community based organisations ie. schools, community services, child care organisations etc.
* engages and addresses barriers to learning for parents experiencing disadvantage
* uses formal and informal learning activities to start parents on a pathway to further education and employment.

FLP+(from 2019) partnerships will provide LLOs with funds to develop collaborative programs with other educational organisations and community-based services to respond to the learning needs of parents experiencing disadvantage. FLP funding is for two years. New FLP+ guidelines for current FLP providers will be distributed in 2019.

 **Communities of Practice**

The Communities of Practice (CoPs) will bring members from the LeAF programs together to share knowledge, skills and experience in supporting vulnerable families.

The CoP Coordinator will work for 18 months with FLP CoPs, and optionally with FFS grants recipients to facilitate a transition from operationally-focussed groups to a more strategic model. The deliverables of this specialist role will include:

* establishment of area-based collaborative practice models with CoPs
* development of a stakeholder engagement strategy, and positioning FLP LLOs as local experts in education-focussed approaches for Vulnerable Families.
* Creating the critical mass required to enable CoPs to link with the broader service sector and leverage additional resources
* delivery of a customised professional development package for LLO education providers to ensure service models are informed by best practice.

Following appointment of members of CoPs, the Department will arrange for a sector-based CoP coordinator to be appointed. More information on the CoP coordinator will be provided shortly.

The three elements of the LeAF package are strategically interconnected so LLOs can assist both parents and their children to overcome the barriers that prevent them from engaging in education, training and employment.

Should you require further information, please contact Fernando Sanchez, Policy Officer, Participation Branch on (03) 9637 3817 or SanchezCastellanos.Fernando.F@edumail.vic.gov.au.