# Department of Education and Training

# Higher Education and Skills Group

# Participation Branch Memo: *2018 / 4 / 24*

**TO: Learn Local organisations - *ALL or RTOs only***

 **ACFE Board**

 **ACFE Regional Councils**

 **Adult Education Institutions**

 **Learn Local Stakeholders**

 **Participation Branch Staff**

**FROM:** Ryan Collins, Director - Participation Branch

**DATE:** 24 / 4 / 2018

**SUBJECT: Applications open under 2018 *Skills First* Reconnect Program**

## Actions / Critical Dates:

* *Learn Local Registered Training Organisations and TAFEs with a 2018 Skills First contract are invited to apply for funding under the Department of Education and Training Skills First Reconnect program.*
* *Learn Locals are encouraged to look at partnerships with eligible organisations that would provide an opportunity to be part of the Reconnect program.*
* *Applications close at 4pm on Tuesday, 15 May 2018*

Applications are now open for the 2018 *Skills First Reconnect* program to eligible providers consisting of Learn Local Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) with a 2018 *Skills First* contract and TAFEs.

Announced as part of the *Skills First* reforms in August 2016, the 2018 *Skills First Reconnect* program will provide $11 million over two years to selected Learn Local RTOs and TAFEs.

*Skills First Reconnect* grants will fund the provision of a range of supports for disengaged high needs learners to sustain their engagement with learning and build the resilience and capacity necessary to successfully transition into formal learning and training that leads to jobs.

*Skills First Reconnect* grants will enable selected Learn Local RTOs and TAFEs to:

* undertake outreach and engagement activities to locate, engage and attract disengaged high needs learners back into a learning environment
* assess the learning and non-learning needs and career goals for participants, and develop an agreed learning plan
* coordinate and provide access to support services that will support participants start and stay in training
* assist participants in transitioning to further training, employment or both.

Partnerships between RTOs and Learn Local organisations and other community service providers are integral to the program’s aim of engaging high needs learners and providing them with the supports they need, including pre-accredited training programs.

Learn Local organisations may be contacted by these RTOs in the near future or may decide to contact those operating in their area to discuss potential collaboration under the *Skills First Reconnect* program.

Applications for *Skills First Reconnect* will close *4pm on Tuesday, 15 May 2018*.

If you have any questions about the *Skills First* Reconnect program and application process please contact Nick Quinn, Strategic Projects and Research Unit, Participation Branch on quinn.nicholas.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.