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|  | Fact Sheet | Understanding ACFE | September 2015  Audience | New members |

This **Fact Sheet** outlines the legislative definition of adult, community and further education (ACFE) and where ACFE courses fit within the Victorian education and training system. This Fact Sheet should be read in conjunction with the [Fact Sheet | Consulting with stakeholders](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/acfepublications/rchubconsultstake.docx).

The ACFE Board (Board) and Regional Councils (Councils) are focused on increasing the educational participation and attainment of adults to improve social cohesion and to boost the human and social capital of Victoria.

The term ‘adult, community and further education’ is defined as:

(a) further education; or

(b) secondary education for adults; or

(c) that part of education and training which is directed towards the development of skills and knowledge in relation to work when it is provided by an adult education institution established by or under this Act or a community based organisation which is not a TAFE college, commercial provider or industry provider;

Education and Training Reform Act 2006, s. 1.1.3

**Further education** means those education programs that lead to the development of knowledge and skills that are not specific to any particular occupation and are not provided or offered by a university or an autonomous college.

Education and Training Reform Act, 2006 s. 1.1.3

## Pre-accredited training

Pre-accredited training is one way that education and training providers can support disadvantaged learners. Pre-accredited training is short modular basic education courses designed to give learners confidence and skills.

Programs address the particular needs of adults who have experienced barriers to education and find it difficult to undertake accredited programs as their first step in education and training.

Pre-accredited training focuses on creating pathways to accredited education and training or employment.

The programs fit with the Education and Training Reform Act’s definition of ‘further education’ and/or ‘training towards the development of skills and knowledge in relation to work’.

The Board contracts Learn Local organisations to provide pre-accredited training.

## Accredited education and training

Accredited education and training includes a range of courses that lead to a qualification under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).

Accredited education and training could include ‘further education’, ‘secondary education for adults’ or ‘education and training which is directed towards the development of skills and knowledge in relation to work’. Programs could include the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or AQF Certificates at levels I, II, III, IV, or Diploma or Advanced Diploma courses.

These programs are subsidised by the Victorian Government through the Victorian Training Guarantee.

Consulting with a wide range of providers delivering pre-accredited and accredited education and training to disadvantaged learners in the region will help the Council keep abreast of regional issues and opportunities.

The Act states that ‘Regional Councils must consult as a matter of general practice with any person or organisation who uses or provides adult, community and further education’ in its region.

This means that Councils should consult with a wide range of providers of pre-accredited, accredited and fee-for-service adult, community and further education in their region. This includes:

* Learn Local organisations
* TAFE institutes and their Boards
* adult education institutions and their Boards
* registered training organisations
* non-school senior secondary education providers
* higher education providers
* other community organisations offering fee-for-service programs.

It is important to note that some Learn Local organisations, as well as delivering pre-accredited training, are also RTOs and/or non-school senior secondary providers and/or registered schools.

## Further information

Further information about pre-accredited and/or accredited education and training is available from a wide range of documents and websites. In the first instance the [*Glossary of terminology commonly used in ACFE*](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/acfepublications/rchubglossary.docx) or your Regional Department staff can assist.

[Fact Sheet | Consulting with stakeholders](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/acfepublications/rchubconsultstake.docx)