



Update from the Adult, Community and Further Education Board 28 May 2020

Dear Learn Local provider colleagues,

As restrictions around Victoria begin to ease, on behalf of the Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board, I want to highlight the important role the Learn Local sector continues to play in changing people's lives.

It is important to celebrate lifelong learning and the opportunities that learning can create. It is essential also that we celebrate the success and diversity of our great sector, especially in these difficult times. For these reasons, the Board has committed to holding the 2020 Learn Local Awards later in the year. The Gala Ceremony will now be on Friday, 6 November.

This will have flow-on effects on other dates related to the Learn Local Awards, including an extension to the nomination timeline to Friday, 7 August. The Board wants to ensure Learn Local providers have as much time as possible to complete their applications, and that the celebrations of our sector can involve as many sector representatives as possible.

Yesterday saw the start of National Reconciliation Week – a chance for us all to celebrate and share in the histories, cultures and achievements of our fellow Victorians; a chance to explore what reconciliation means to us and how we might contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. There are several virtual events taking place this week and I encourage you to take part.

The Board is keen to recommence visits to Learn Local providers. For the moment, these visits will be undertaken virtually, if suitable, to see firsthand the innovative and important work you have been undertaking through the challenging past few months. We hope to see as many of you as possible in the coming weeks.

In direct response to the Board's communiques, I have heard from providers about the work they are doing and the positive outcomes that have been harnessed through this crisis. All these responses are being collated and considered as part of a broader plan to share innovative practices. I will provide you with further details on this work next week.

Jenny Macklin's review of Victoria's post-secondary education and training system will soon conclude. This review will provide important insights into the sector and ensure it is well placed to equip Victorians with the skills they need now and into the future. The Board is finalising its submission on behalf of the ACE sector and I know some of you and the sector's peaks are also submitting a response.

This month, the Board welcomed a new member, Dr May Lam. May brings to the Board a deep understanding of youth unemployment and transitions, having served in 2019 as a Commissioner for the National Youth Commission. She also previously worked for Jobs Australia – a peak body providing policy, strategy, financial and business planning advice to its community-based members – and has held senior executive positions in several non-government organisations focused mainly on research, policy, and strategy.

I am privileged to be working with May and all the ACFE Board members in partnership with the sector to deliver our work in 2020 and beyond.

Best wishes

Maria Peters
Chairperson
Adult, Community and Further Education Board
