



Update from the Adult, Community and Further Education Board

21 May 2020

Dear Learn Local provider colleagues,

The Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board continues to hear of the great efforts in training delivery and capability development that are being undertaken across the sector. These efforts directly support achievement of the Ministerial Statement on the Future of ACE, and they show what can be achieved when we work together to fulfil our essential roles in the education and training system.

To support the thinking and planning of the Board, we have sought input and advice from our Learn Local providers through multiple channels. This is essential not only now, as we respond to the COVID-19 crisis, but also for how we recover and look to operate in a post-COVID world.

As a crucial step in sector engagement, the Board has established an expert advisory panel that consists of a broad range of members who represent our sector. The panel will meet with a cross-section of Board members each month. Establishment of the panel had already figured in the Board's planning, and the current crisis has made its role even more important.

The respected panel members, from regional, metropolitan, large and small providers, will be another avenue to inform the Board's work and to test and help shape our thinking. The members are: Pauline Wilson, Yarrowonga Neighbourhood House; Annette Creek, Nhill Neighbourhood House; Kalli Taifalos, Pines Learning; Liz Bonner, Cloverdale Community Centre; Cliff Rundle, North Melbourne Language & Learning; Jeff Percy, Olympic Adult Education; Erin White, Southern Grampians Adult Education; Chris McCall, Yarraville Community Centre; Jennie Barrera, Wyndham Community & Education Centre; and, Gina Dougall, Banksia Gardens Neighbourhood House. It is our intent to also draw input from other people in the sector as specific matters arise.

The Board's intention is for the panel to be a dynamic, practical forum focused on working through issues and building on opportunities. At each meeting, the panel will look at a strategic theme, and in between meetings the Board will seek further input from panel members out-of-session. The panel members are happy to be contacted by those of you who have examples of innovation to share, or ideas or matters for discussion that would assist us to achieve the goals and aspirations of the Ministerial Statement.

The panel met for the first time last week to discuss lessons from the COVID-19 crisis so far: examples of innovation and resilience, and potential opportunities to share innovations and 'scale up' beneficial approaches across the sector. One key message is that there are many different high-quality programs, resources and learning experiences available – and these need to be curated and prioritised. That way, we can collectively apply the best tools and resources across the sector's four roles, as set out in the ACFE Board Strategy.

It was inspiring to hear about provider approaches that can be shared and built on with further investment. Given that the sharing and curating of good practice and high-quality tools is so important in the current context, the panel will meet again on May 27th to take this discussion forward. In the meantime, the Board and panel members would welcome any thoughts and examples you would like to feed into the discussion. These are important times for our sector, and I thank you again for your innovation and resilience.

Best wishes

Maria Peters

Chairperson

Adult, Community and Further Education Board
