



Update from the Adult, Community and Further Education Board

20 April 2020

Dear Learn Local provider colleagues,

On behalf of the Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board, I thought it was important that I reached out to you at this moment of unprecedented challenges.

Though we don't yet know all the impacts – both temporary and longer-lasting – we know the crisis is affecting us all: our learners, our organisations, our communities and indeed our own lives.

The crucial role played by our sector has only become more urgent: more people are disadvantaged, more workers are at risk, and more learners need our support.

During this challenging period, I want you to know the ACFE Board is meeting each week and is actively working through actions and solutions, with the valued support and advice of the Department of Education and Training. Our focus is on supporting our learners and Learn Local providers to meet the challenges we jointly face.

In difficult times, good communication is essential. The ACFE Board is committed to keeping you updated and advised of the work and the decisions it makes based on advice from the Department.

Today's communique is the first of our regular communications to update you on how the ACFE Board is working to support our sector. This and future communications will highlight key actions and developments to help you stay informed as events change. Regular communication is one way in which we can stay connected.

The ACFE Board is keeping the Minister updated on issues and risks affecting our sector. To ensure we are making the best decisions about support and investment, we are working with our Regional Councils, and with sector leaders and practitioners. To draw expert input from the sector, we are establishing an expert advisory panel and we are meeting with the sector peaks regularly.

The decisions we make now need to do two important things: address the short term impacts and build foundations for the future. We will continue to work in close alignment with the Ministerial Statement and the ACFE Board Strategy. We will evaluate our investment capacity so we can foster system-wide innovation, strengthen capacity to share delivery practice, and support our people to manage change and grasp new opportunities.

The Department recently issued a memo advising that the second 2020 milestone payment will be released in April to all providers, without the usual requirement that training delivery meets the milestone target. The ACFE Board understands that for many providers learner numbers will be below expected

The ACFE Board is developing further advice and support for the sector on how you can use this payment. I look forward to providing further details to you this next week.

On behalf of the ACFE Board, I thank you for your continued commitment to adult community education in Victoria. I am encouraged by the many stories I am hearing about innovation and resilience in the sector and will look for opportunities to share these stories with you in the challenging weeks ahead.

Best wishes

Maria Peters
Chairperson
Adult, Community and Further Education Board
