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| Higher Education and Skills Group  **Participation Branch Memo**  **Department of Education and Training** |

***NUMBER:*** *2015 / January / 21*

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations  *– ALL* | Adult Education Institutions |  |

**FROM:** Bronwen Heathfield, Director, Participation Branch

**DATE:** 21/01/2015

**SUBJECT:** *Survey on mature aged Victorians in education and training*

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

* *Interested Learn Local organisations can access the survey via* [*https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B2KPDVK*](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B2KPDVK)
* *The survey* ***will remain open until 2 March 2015****.*

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The Australian population, like many developed countries, is ageing. A greater proportion of older Australians in the population has the potential to yield significant benefits, with more experienced and knowledgeable workers and community members fostering improved productivity and social tolerance. However, the workforce participation rate among older Australians remains low compared to other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, at a rate of 57 per cent of 55 to 64 year olds (ABS, 2010). Changes to the Victorian economy and the future of work present significant challenges for sections of the workforce – older Victorians being chief among them – who may not have had access to initial training or further training to upskill.

The ACFE Board has formed the Taskforce on the Mature Aged Workforce (the Taskforce) to develop advice to the responsible Minister on how the education and training system can support mature aged Victorians to remain connected to paid employment, or to continue to build relevant skills to enable them to remain in the workforce.

To inform this advice, the Taskforce wishes to hear from Learn Local organisations – both those that deliver pre-accredited training only as well as Registered Training Organisations – to understand some of the barriers to and opportunities for engaging more mature aged Victorians in education and training. This [survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B2KPDVK) will take you between 15 and 20 minutes to complete, and provides a chance for you to influence policy decisions that are important to your organisation. It will remain open until 2 March 2015.