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| Higher Education and Skills Group**Participation Branch Memo****Department of Education and Early Childhood Development** |

***NUMBER:*** *2015 / July / 01*

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations *– ALL*  |  LLENs | ACFE Regional Councils |
| Adult Education Institutions | Learn Local stakeholders  |   |
| Participation Branch staff |   |   |

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

**DATE:** 01/07/2015

**SUBJECT: The Victorian Government’s Education State Consultation: Shaping the future directions of education in Victoria**

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

**The Education State Consultation started on June 10 and will finish on 31 July 2015.**

**Anyone can provide feedback on the consultation papers and contribute their ideas and experiences.**

**Stakeholder consultation sessions are being held across Victoria, including workshops for those involved in VET. You must register online to attend.**

**Resources are available to help you facilitate local group discussions about the issues raised in the consultation papers.**

**Group feedback and individual responses to the consultation questions must be submitted via the Education State website by 4pm on July 31 2015**

**What is the Education State?**

The Victorian Government has started a two-month consultation on how we can make Victoria the Education State. Anyone with a passion for education is invited to provide their ideas, experiences and aspirations to help shape a shared vision for the future of education in Victoria.

The concept of the Education State includes skills and learning, health and wellbeing, citizenship and social inclusion, creativity and innovation, jobs and prosperity. It's about maximising the potential of all Victorians, regardless of their background or where they live.

What is the Education State Consultation Paper?

The paper is intended as a ‘conversation starter’ about improving education in Victoria in its broadest sense. It outlines some of the government’s key education initiatives to build the Education State along with key challenges, strengths and opportunities.

*The paper can be found at <http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/explore-the-consultation-paper/documents/23301/download>*

What is the Education State Schools Consultation paper?

This paper targets those with a particular interest in school education, including school-based staff, parents and school councils. Anyone with an interest in school education is invited to read the Schools Consultation Paper to further understand the importance of the Education State for our schools.

*The paper can be found at* [*http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/explore-the-consultation-paper/documents/23303/download*](http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/explore-the-consultation-paper/documents/23303/download)

**How can those not involved in schools get involved in the Education State Consultations?**

While everyone is invited to respond to both Consultation Papers, organisations and networks not focussed on schools are encouraged to provide feedback to the Education State Consultation Paper.

Please note that further consultations are planned with a specific focus on vocational education and training (VET) and on early childhood, so there will be an additional opportunity to engage with issues more directly related to the work of Learn Local organisations. The VET consultation is likely to follow on from the VET Funding Review which finishes on 31 August 2015.

For now, you may choose to participate in the stakeholder consultation sessions scheduled specifically for those with an interest or involvement in vocational education and training.

There is a dedicated public website for the Education State that contains all the information you need on how to get involved, when and where the stakeholder meetings will be held and how to submit your feedback: <http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/>

**There are three ways to get involved and provide feedback on the Education State consultation papers:**

1. **Participate in online conversations:** Register on the Education State website at <http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/users/sign_up> in order to provide your input and participate in online conversations at <http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/education-state?tool=forum_topic#tool_tab>

2. **Facilitate a group discussion** with your team, work group, network or local community about what the Education State means to you and share your ideas on how we can improve what we currently do to achieve that outcome. A toolkit is available to help you facilitate this discussion at <http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/host-your-own-conversation> You can email the outcomes of your conversation to educationstate@edumail.vic.gov.au

 *Note there are different resources to support conversations about EDUCATION in general and about SCHOOL EDUCATION in particular.*

3. **Attend a stakeholder session:** These are being held over June/July at locations across the state for a wide range of stakeholder groups, including those involved in vocational education and training. The date and location of sessions for specific stakeholder groups is at <http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/education-state?tool=survey_tool&tool_id=register-for-an-event#tool_tab>

**Where can I get further information?**

If you have questions about the Education State consultation, please contact the Education State Consultation team at the Department of Education and Training via email: educationstate@edumail.vic.gov.au

If you are interested in hosting or participating in a facilitated discussion on the Education State consultation papers please contact the Training Participation Support Manager in your region.