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

***NUMBER:*** *2015 / xx/*

**TO:**

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| All Learn Local organisations | Adult Education Institutions | ACFE Regional Councils |
| Learn Local stakeholders | LLENs  *Chairs and Executive Officers* |  |

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

**DATE:** 05 August 2015

**SUBJECT:** *Increase in rate for pre-accredited training*

**FOR INFORMATION / CRITICAL DATES:**

* *The hourly rate for pre-accredited training has been increased to $8.20.*
* *The increase will be applied to all pre-accredited training contracted from 1 January 2016.*
* *The Ministerial media release is available at* [*http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/labor-government-backs-1-8-million-learn-local-funding-boost*](http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/labor-government-backs-1-8-million-learn-local-funding-boost)

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The Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board has increased subsidy rates for pre-accredited programs.

The Board made the decision to increase the rate from $7.19 to $8.20 at its recent July meeting. The increase will be applied to all pre-accredited training contracted from 2016 onwards.

The Minister for Training and Skills, Steve Herbert, has welcomed the decision, resulting in the ACFE Board investing $17.8 million to deliver pre-accredited programs in 2016, up from $16 million this year.

Minister Herbert said the Government was establishing Victoria as the Education State to help ensure all Victorians had access to training and education opportunities, including Learn Local organisations.

The funding increase is the first since 2009 and will support Learn Local organisations that have been facing rising cost pressures, to continue to deliver high-quality training.

The higher hourly subsidy rate is a critical element of the ACFE Board’s strategy to support Learn Local organisations to deliver quality education and training that engages with learners who face disadvantage.

The Ministerial media release is available at <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/labor-government-backs-1-8-million-learn-local-funding-boost>.

Should you have any questions regarding the rate increase please contact the relevant regional manager:

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| Region | Manager | Contact |
| North Eastern Region | Julie Hebert | 8392 9342; |
| North Western Region | Kaye Callaghan | 5440 3182 |
| South-Eastern Region | Robyn Downie | 8765 5701 |
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