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

***NUMBER:*** *2015 / 09/08*

**TO:**

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| All Learn Local organisations  | Learn Local stakeholders  | Learn Local Employment Networks |
| ACFE Regional Councils |  |  |

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

**DATE: 07/09/2015**

**SUBJECT:** *Education State Consultation – Early Childhood*

**FOR INFORMATION / CRITICAL DATES:**

* *On 26 August 2015 the Minister for Families and Children launched a two-month state-wide consultation regarding the future of early childhood health development and learning in Victoria.*
* *The first consultation session was held on 7 September, 2015, in Geelong.*
* *The consultation paper can be found at* [*http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/early-years*](http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/early-years)*.*

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**Education State – Early Childhood Consultation**

On 26 August 2015 the Minister for Families and Children launched a two-month state-wide consultation to build a shared vision for the future of early childhood health, development and learning in Victoria. The Government’s [Early Childhood Consultation Paper](http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/early-years/documents/25853/download) is designed to start this discussion, looking at all parts of the early childhood experience.

Key questions for the consultation include:

* How do we engage more children in learning earlier?
* How do we boost quality so that families can access excellent services regardless of where they live?
* How can we make sure vulnerable and disadvantaged children have the same opportunities as others?
* How can we better support parents as their children’s first educators?
* How can we improve connections between services so that no child gets lost in the system, and it is easier for parents to navigate?

Learn Local Organisations may be interested in this consultation through their role as a

1. provider of early childhood services;
2. provider of training to the early childhood sector; and
3. a place for families to connect in their local community.

Formal consultations commenced in Geelong on 7 September, 2015. Further dates and locations can be viewed at <http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/early-years/key_dates>.

The consultation process has been designed to capture as many voices as possible. Other ways stakeholders can contribute include via:

* an online forum;
* registering to attend an event; and/or
* hosting an event.

Local Learning and Employment Networks are encouraged to distribute this information through their network members.

The consultation paper can be found at <http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/early-years>.