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

***NUMBER:*** *2015 / 04/ 28*

**TO:**

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

**FROM:** Verna Kearney, Acting Director, Participation Branch

**DATE:** 30/04/2015

**SUBJECT:** *Consultation on the future of regional services*

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

* *The consultation process will run between April and 29 May 2015*
* *The consultation paper can be found at* [*http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/regionalsupport.aspx*](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/regionalsupport.aspx) *and provides a frame of reference for this.*
* *Opportunities to participate in the consultations.*

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**Strengthening DET regional relationships and support**

The Victorian Government is committed to establishing Victoria as the Education State.

The Secretary, Department of Education and Training, launched a state wide consultation on 21 April 2015, on improving regional services into the future. A strong regional presence is essential to building Victoria as the Education State.

The consultation will gather views on the role of regions, the types of services needed, and how and where services should be delivered. Schools and their relationship with regional services will be at the core of the consultation, however, it will also look at the enhanced roles regions can fulfil, and the expertise regions need to most effectively support early childhood services, schools, TAFE and other VET providers. It will take account of the views of local governments and the needs of communities.

The consultation process has been designed to capture as many voices as possible. It will include interviews, discussion groups, presentations, large-scale forums and the opportunity to participate online. The consultation will include representatives across the education sector.

There are several ways you can contribute your thoughts. These include:

* an online forum
* emailing the project team at regional.services@edumail.vic.gov.au; or
* in person at any one of the following consultation sessions:
* Learn Local Organisations, 6 May 2015, 11:00am - 12:00pm, Mercure, Cnr Myers and Gheringhap Sts, Geelong. (Please note: This session will precede the ANHLC Conference held at the same venue. Many thanks to ANHLC for accommodating this session).

**Please RSVP to** **valleau.analia.f@edumail.vic.gov.au** **for this consultation by COB Monday 4 May 2015.**

* LLEN EOs and Network Chairs, 22 May 2015, 2pm -3pm, Rydges, Exhibition Street, Melbourne.

**Please RSVP to** **valleau.analia.f@edumail.vic.gov.au** **for this consultation by COB Wednesday 20 May 2015.**

* ACFE Regional Councils, 28 May,10:30am - 11:30am, Department of Education and Training, 2 Treasury Pl, East Melbourne.

**Please RSVP to** **valleau.analia.f@edumail.vic.gov.au** **for this consultation by COB Tuesday 26 May 2015.**

A template for responses to the questions posed in the consultation paper (provided to guide and assist discussion) is also available and can be downloaded via the link provided above.

The consultation process will run until the 29th of May 2015.