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

***NUMBER:*** *2016 / 01 /18*

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations  |  |  |
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**FROM:** Bronwen Heathfield, Director, Participation Branch

**DATE:** 18 January 2016

**SUBJECT:** *Departure of Director, Participation Branch*

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

* *N/A*

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I will be leaving the role of Director Participation Branch from 28 January.  My new role within the Department of Education and Training will be Education Area Executive Director for the Brimbank/Melton Area in South West Victorian Region.  The role is an exciting one and forms part of the new regional structure and operating model for this Department which will be established from 1 March 2016.

The new model provides additional resources within regions with a focus on place.  There are 17 local areas – one being Brimbank/Melton - established within the four regions to ensure a deeper understanding of the characteristics, trends and issues of local communities.  Each area is led by an Executive Director who will provide strategic leadership and develop stronger partnerships between education, other agencies and local organisations.  I will be leading a multi-disciplinary team which will work collaboratively to respond to the needs of children, learners, families, schools and providers within that geographic area.  The team has expertise that includes disability support, nurses, school improvement, Koorie education, languages and early childhood.  This is a real opportunity to drive improved outcomes for learners.

I have enjoyed the last three years in this role and would like to thank you for your support during that time.  I continue to be impressed by the passion and achievements of community based organisations in ensuring access to training for vulnerable learners and for Victorians residing in rural and regional areas.  It has been a privilege to work with you.

2016 will be an exciting time for this sector as the implementation of the Government’s response to the VET Funding Review becomes clearer and the ACFE Board develops its strategic directions for the next three years.

I wish you every success into the future.

Warm regards

Bronwen