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

***NUMBER:*** *2017 / October / 30*

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations *– ALL or RTOs only* | ACFE Board | ACFE Regional Councils |
| Adult Education Institutions | Learn Local Stakeholders | Participation Branch Staff |

**FROM:** Ryan Collins,Director - Participation Branch

**DATE:** 30 / 10 / 2017

**SUBJECT:** *Learning Aware Families (LeAF) program*

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

* *Learning Aware Families program to replace Family Learning Support Program and Family Learning Partnerships in 2018 and 2019 respectively.*
* *Learning Aware Families (LeAF) guidelines to be released in mid-November.*

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The ACFE Board is pleased to announce the development of a new program, Learning Aware Families (LeAF), to support vulnerable Victorian families into learning pathways.

The LeAF program has been directly informed by the recommendations of a 2016 evaluation of the Family Learning Partnerships (FLP) program, and a 2017 review of the Family Learning Support Program (FLSP).

LeAF will assist Learn Locals to support more families into learning pathways by:

* Replacing FLSP with Flexible Family Support Grants in 2018. Flexible Family Support Grants can be used by Learn Locals to pay for Occasional Child Care, Long Day Care or hire of Playgroup Coordinators.
* Replacing FLP with Family Learning Partnerships Plus in 2019. Family Learning Partnerships Plus will provide boosted resources to Learn Locals for the development of innovative partnership-based family programs.
* Ensuring LeAF providers have access to a tailor-made suite of professional development opportunities from 2018 onwards.

LeAF guidelines, including details on the application process, will be released by mid-November.

Should you require further information, please contact Nick Orchard, Senior Policy Officer, Participation Branch on (03) 9637 2510 or orchard.nick.n@edumail.vic.gov.au