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| Higher Education and Skills Group**Participation Branch Memo****Department of Education and Training** |
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***NUMBER:*** *2017 / 09 / 11*

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations *– ALL* | Adult Education Institutions | Learn Local stakeholders  |
| Participation Branch staff | ACFE Board |  |

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

**DATE:** 11 September 2017

**SUBJECT: The Announcement of the Successful International Vocational Training Practitioner Fellowships**

**ACTIONS/CRITICAL DATES:**

Applications will be open again in June 2018

**Background to the Fellowship**

The Department of Education and Training works in partnership with the International Specialist Institute (ISS Institute) by funding Fellowships aimed at developing opportunities within the VET sector to assist in building an *Education State* in Victoria that produces excellence and reducing the impact of disadvantage. In addition, the program is funded to support the priorities of *Skills First*, including developing capacity and capability, innovative training practices and increasing teacher quality within the VET sector as well as building industry capability and developing Victoria’s current and future workforce.

The Department funds the International Vocational Training Practitioners Fellowships each year by offering ten (10) International Fellowships for the amount of $13,000 each to provide an opportunity to vocational training practitioners in Victoria to travel overseas and examine innovative approaches that demonstrate potential benefits for, and application in, Victoria.

These Fellowships are offered to vocational training practitioners who are employed within the Victorian Government contracted Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board registered Learn Local Organisations (LLOs), including TAFEs and private RTOs.

A key outcome from this Fellowship is to develop effective approaches for student engagement and participation, quality teaching and learning, employment and industry productivity.

The Fellows become ambassadors of the Department, the ISS Institute and their respective organisations, and on their return, share their learning and disseminate to peers, colleagues and the broader VET sector and government a range of considerations and recommendations to enhance innovation, productivity, quality training delivery and an ultimately strong Education State.

**Priorities**

Applications for 2017/18 were invited for Fellowships that will support the continued development of VET delivery with priority given to oneof the following priority areas:

1. Developing Quality Education and Training Systems;
2. Supporting Disadvantaged Persons through Education and Training; or,
3. Improving current practice in the Vocational Education and Training sector through the implementation of Entrepreneurial and Innovative approaches.

The interviews for the 2017/18 International Vocational Training Practitioners Fellowship were held on 18 and 19 July 2017 and 11 Fellows (including one joint Fellowship) have been offered as follows (refer to **Attachment 1: Introducing the 2017 DET HESG International Vocational Training Fellows** for further detail):

**TAFE Institutes**

* Simon Bruce – Holmesglen Institute
* Alain Grossbard – RMIT
* Anagha Karandikar – Swinburne University of Technology
* Katrina Watt - SuniTAFE

**Learn Local Organisations (LLOs)**

* Karen Dymke and Cate Thompson – The Bridge
* Tracey Fenton – Prahran Community Learning Centre
* Linno Rhodes – Olympic Adult Education

**Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)**

* Paula Kudi – Institute of Health and Nursing Australia
* Daniel O’Hara – SkillsPlus
* Feren Yen – Melbourne City Institute of Education

We would like to thank all the applicants for making the time to develop their ideas and engaging in the application process. We would also like to congratulate our Fellows for their hard work and determination in wanting to make a difference in the sector and pursuing their passion. We would also like to wish them well with their new adventure and thank them for their contribution to the sector.

If you have any questions about the International Vocational Training Practitioner Fellowships,please contact the ISS Institute directly via phone: 03 9347 4583 or email: info@issinstitute.org.au.