# Department of Education and Training

# Higher Education and Skills Group

# Branch Memo: *2018 / August / 28*

**TO: Learn Local organisations - *ALL***

**ACFE Regional Councils**

**Adult Education Institutions**

**Learn Local Stakeholders**

**Participation Branch Staff**

**FROM:** Eduard de Hue, Acting Director - Participation, Inclusion and Regional Engagement Branch

**DATE:** 28 / August / 2018

**SUBJECT: New Adult, Community and Further Education Board Chairperson appointed**

## Actions / Critical Dates:

*On 28 August 2018, Ms Maria Peters was appointed new Adult, Community and Further Education Board Chairperson by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Training and Skills, The Hon Gayle Tierney MP.*

## Important Notice about Communications

The Adult, Community and Further Education Board is a statutory authority established under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. It supports the development of adult, community and further education in Victoria.

The Board’s mission is to increase the level of educational participation and attainment, improve social inclusion and boost human and social capital through effective stewardship and funding of Victoria’s Learn Local network.

Ms Peters has been involved in the adult education sector for more than 30 years and was most recently the Independent Chairperson of the *Future Opportunities for Adult Learners in Victoria* reference group. Please find her full biography below.

**Biography**

Maria Peters is a leading figure in the Australian vocational and tertiary sector, who has held a wide range of management, leadership and governance roles.

Ms Peters joined Chisholm Institute in 1987 as a sessional teacher in the ACE and foundation field and has provided 30 years of continuous service to the communities the Institute serves, becoming a highly respected leader in vocational education and training at a state, national and international level.

As Chisholm's CEO from 2010-2017, she has been driven to improve participation and ensure strong student and industry outcomes. In addition, she has led key innovations at Chisholm across school vocational, work based, higher education programs for youth and online delivery.

She has been at the forefront of effective organisational change and management in the TAFE sector. Her commitment to industry has seen the development of specialist centres in partnership with industry to meet employment and community need in areas of engineering, manufacturing, health and the trades. In addition, she has lead significant educational quality and reform, with a focus on innovative youth programs across schools, pathways and vocational areas, apprenticeships, programs for disadvantaged and CALD groups and responsive work-based programs for industry.

Ms Peters has participated in government committees at both state and national level, in family violence, aged care, the automotive industry, and vocational and higher education policy development as well as having been a member of the Southern Regional ACFE Board.

The high regard with which Ms Peters is held within the broader VET sector has led to significant educational innovation within the sector.

Throughout her tenure as CEO, Ms Peters has led the Institute through a period of significant sectoral change in Victoria, transforming Chisholm into one of the leading and most successful TAFE Institutes in Australia.

In 2014, Chisholm was named Large Training Provider of the Year at both the Victorian and Australian Training Awards.

As a recipient of the Lynne Kosky Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2017 Victorian Training Awards, Ms Peters was recognised for leading significant educational innovation within the VET sector aimed at improving participation and ensuring strong student and industry outcomes.

In 2018, for her outstanding leadership and commitment to vocational education Ms Peters was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Education from Swinburne University.