**Advice to providers to support targeting pre-accredited delivery
to priority learner groups**

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**Southern Metropolitan Regional Council area**

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| **REGIONAL CONTEXT** |
| ***Demographic and Geographic observations***The region is geographically, culturally and economically diverse. It includes:* areas of relative prosperity and affluence and other areas of relative poverty
* long established areas where the population is ageing and areas of rapid growth and youthful populations
* urban areas which are densely populated and well connected, and semi-rural area with sparse populations
* rich cultural diversity in pockets of the region

Greater Dandenong is the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria. The unemployment rate is over 20 per cent and the area has multiple complex issues - generational unemployment, cultural barriers and asylum seekers with limited English and employability skillsYouth unemployment is high in the outer fringes of the region – Dandenong, Frankston and the Mornington PeninsulaDramatic population growth is occurring in some areas particularly Casey and CardiniaBoth Casey and Cardinia have also experienced increased numbers of new arrivals and CALD residents. Kingston, Glen Eira, Bayside and Stonnington have ageing communities. Plan Melbourne / Plan Melbourne Refresh is leading to extensive apartment development, which may change this.This region includes High rise public housing estates are a feature in Port Phillip, Bayside and Stonnington, as well as other estates in Frankston and Mornington Peninsula LGAs.***Economic factors***The South East of Melbourne is one of Melbourne’s key manufacturing hubs. Manufacturing generally has declined although there are still some large organisations delivering products for local and overseas consumption. The Cities of Greater Dandenong and Kingston are the centres of manufacturing in South East Melbourne.Skilled workers have the capacity to move across jobs, but those who lack good literacy, numeracy, IT and generic employment skills will struggle to find new jobs. There are significant numbers of part-time workers who seek full-time employment.Employers are constantly emphasising the importance of employability skills. In many situations, they are prepared to train people in the vocational skills necessary for their jobs if the individual has the employability skills they require. This presents an opportunity for Learn Local programs. There are significant numbers of CALD residents with limited language skills, capability and confidence who struggle to find suitable employment. Therefore ‘English as an additional language’ training is highly sought after in the region, specifically in Greater Dandenong, Casey, Kingston and more recently Cardinia.***Government Initiatives and supports***There are a significant number of recent State and Federal government initiatives relating to the unemployed, disengaged youth (e.g. Reconnect, Navigator, improved resourcing of schools), disability (NDIS) and victims of domestic violence (e.g. Safety and Support Hubs) which provide opportunities for Learn Local organisations who are able to work in partnership with these initiatives and/or modify their services in response to them.The cessation of the Workplace English Language and Literacy program (WELL) has led to a training gap for vulnerable migrant and low literacy workers, which pre-accredited programs may be able to address.Implementing the Royal Commission into Family Violence recommendations will have a significant impact on victims of domestic violence offers opportunities for Learn Locals to work more closely with other agencies to support this cohort. |

The data below indicates how effectively pre-accredited delivery in 2015 (latest publicly available data) was targeting priority groups



**Additional information on individual priority groups**

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| **YOUNG MOTHERS, WOMEN RETURNING TO WORK AND WOMEN WHO HAVE EXPEREINCED FAMILY VIOLENCE** |
| While women are accessing pre-accredited delivery across Southern Metropolitan region in significant numbers, it is not clear what percentage would be classified as vulnerable. CALD women in the LGAs of Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia are enrolled in English as additional language (EAL) programs and definitely fit the vulnerable category. It is less clear in other LGAs about the status of the women accessing pre-accredited programs.Organisations that successfully engage vulnerable women have set up their services targeting women as learners. Learn Local organisations in the growth corridors of Casey and Cardinia will continue to experience significant demand from women seeking to improve their skills. In the City of Greater Dandenong, there is high demand from women from a CALD background for English as an additional language followed by vocational and employment skills. |

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| **CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE LEARNERS** |
| Approximately 40% of pre-accredited delivery in Southern Metropolitan Region is in language and literacy. A large percentage of this delivery supports the CALD cohort. The LGAs with high CALD population numbers are: City of Greater Dandenong (new arrivals, asylum seekers and refugees), Casey, Cardinia (both LGAs have growing CALD communities), Kingston, Port Phillip and Stonnington (older CALD communities). Growth in delivery can be expected in these LGAsDelivery of programs to CALD learners is very much dependent on the capacity of the Learn Local to engage and deliver programs appropriate to the cohort. This cohort of learners is generally very well serviced in the area of English as an additional language. Ideally, Learn Locals should consider the delivery of vocational courses with EAL assistance embedded within the programChanges in manufacturing sector employment in Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia could see a number of longer-term culturally and linguistically diverse residents with language and literacy and digital literacy needs retrenched. |

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| **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY** |
| The disability cohort in Southern Metropolitan region is receiving a significant percentage of pre-accredited training across all LGAs. The 2016 data indicates that approximately one third of students have a disability across the Southern region. This is particularly clear in Frankston (40%) and Stonnington (55%). Stonnington has a high percentage of public housing, and high level of disability provision. The LGAs that have a much lower percentage of disability learners compared to disability population include Casey (5%), Frankston (7%), Glen Eira (4%), Kingston (5%) and Mornington Peninsula (6%), and there are trends indicating that the numbers are decreasing. The NDIS has capacity funding for skill building, training, learning, capacity building, and reaching for full potential. There will be opportunities for Learn Locals to operate within the NDIS arrangements. This might include fee for service or access to pre-accredited training.The NDIS can fund a range of post-school supports to assist young people with disabilities to move into employment or other options. NDIS supports may include assistance across a range of life areas such as social and community participation, building life skills, mobility or communication technology, further study or finding and maintaining a job.Disability Employment Providers can count pre-accredited programs as an ‘accepted activity’ for several categories of unemployed clients, again providing opportunities for Learn Locals. |

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| **YOUNG PEOPLE (15 -19) DISENGAGED FROM WORK AND/OR SCHOOL** |
| Services to disengaged young people are very patchy across the Southern Metropolitan area. There are a large number of government funded youth initiatives operating across the region including but not limited to Navigator and Reconnect which provide support for disengaged young people or early school leavers to engage in education and training. Delivery is generally strong in Casey, Frankston, Greater Dandenong, Mornington Peninsula and Port Phillip, which corresponds with locations of the organisations that have chosen to direct their services to youth. Most of these organisations are RTOs and so pre-accredited funding supports pathways into accredited delivery and senior secondary certificates. Ideally a stronger response to disengaged youth is required in Cardinia where there is a significant population increaseYoung people are often unaware of the availability of pre-accredited training  |

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| **EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS**  |
| Delivery to Early School Leavers is on the low side across Southern Metropolitan Region particularly in the LGAs of Casey, Frankston and Kingston. It would be desirable for there to be an increased participation of Early School Leavers in Cardinia, Casey, Frankston and Mornington Peninsula.Those who have not completed year 11 or 12 (early school leavers) are a difficult group to identify and reach out to in the community.A key driver facing those who lack year 12 or equivalent is the changing face of employment. More sophisticated work requirements require good levels of literacy and IT, so it increasingly critical that ACFE is able to link with and support this group. |

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| **INDIGENOUS LEARNERS** |
| There are small communities with Indigenous residents throughout the region with slightly larger numbers on the Mornington Peninsula (Western Port), Casey and Frankston. There are significant numbers of learners in Port Phillip due to Ngwala Willumbong Co-op being located there.Data indicates that there is a need for an increase in delivery in Casey, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula (geographically closely located and with relatively large numbers of indigenous residents). |

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| **UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE** |
| Labour market conditions in the region are subdued. The unemployment rate is above state and national rates, male full-time employment is declining and job applicant numbers are increasing Challenges for the region include the transition in available employment from lower skilled manufacturing to the services sector or to higher skilled jobs in manufacturing, addressing low levels of English proficiency and supporting workforce participation by migrantsLearn Local organisations should increase their provision of programs focussing on the job ready skills – employability skills, English proficiency, etc.Job Active providers and Disability Employment Providers can now count pre-accredited programs as an ‘accepted activity’ for several categories of unemployed, thus the potential for LLOs to locate and deliver programs to unemployed people has increased. Bayside, Mornington Peninsula, Port Phillip and Stonnington currently have pre-accredited delivery to unemployed people that is an appropriate response to the demand and should be maintained.Increases in provision to this cohort are desirable in Cardinia, Frankston, Glen Eira, and Kingston. The City of Greater Dandenong is highly disadvantaged and the need for additional programs is clear. There is a critical need to increase engagement with the large number of unemployed people in the City of Casey.There is a need for LLOs to work with relevant industries and agencies to support the transition of low-skills workers from the manufacturing to the services sector by providing literacy, IT, and generic employability skills. Feedback from employers is that Job seekers need to be job ready with current work experience and good employability skills (including English proficiency). This makes a strong case for increased participation of unemployed workers in ACFE programs. |

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| **VULNERABLE WORKERS** |
| The discontinuation of the Federal WELL (Workplace English Language and Literacy) program has greatly reduced educational provision to these workers, and left a major gap which LLOs should be developing strategies to fill.The LGAs of Casey, Cardinia, Frankston, Greater Dandenong and Kingston have been the manufacturing hub of Victoria. The closure Ford and Holden, and the imminent closure of Toyota will impact the many vulnerable workers within the region. Fifty percent of the supply chain industries and sixty percent of the Automotive Supply Chain workers are located in the South East Melbourne region. The workforce contains a high concentration of long term workers aged 45 and over, with limited English language and digital literacy skills.Reaching the vulnerable (low English, education and employment skills) workers requires Learn Locals to develop engagement strategies that involve building relationships with employers, Job Actives and industry groups.Local information indicates that there are significant numbers of employees in this area are engaged in part time and casual work rather than full time work. Improving the skill levels of these workers may improve their chances of securing more work. |