

U2Uni: Pathways to higher education for regional learners

Peter Hall, Minister for Higher Education Local and Skills, recently announced an exciting partnership between Learn Local organisation, Mansfield Adult



L-R: Paul Sladdin (CEO MACE), Jeanette Powell, Minister for Local Government, Minister Hall, Linda Brown, Swinburne Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Director of TAFE

Continuing Education (MACE) and Swinburne University of Technology. The partnership is funded to develop the U2Uni program, an online learning model that will provide pathways into tertiary education for students in regional communities.

Mr Hall says the program delivered on the government's commitment to increase educational opportunities and quality education for rural and regional students.

"Access to tertiary education and the opportunities it offers are important to Victoria's ongoing social and economic development," he said.

Mirrimbeena AEG overcomes learning barrier for a win-win-win solution!



Clive Atkinson, left, with the Mirrimbeena Aboriginal Education Group

Mirrimbeena Aboriginal Education Group used to be faced with the problem of learners not committing to a full day of learning. A creative and radical approach has made all the difference.

Mirrimbeena AEG learners attending courses at a close-to-home location had trouble returning to the after-lunch sessions.

More on page 2.

Wiki challenge!

Add the Learn Local logo to your website homepage. Hyperlink the logo to either your course list or www.acfe.vic.gov.au



Click the calendar for diary dates



FEATURES:

- Professional development
- ACFE Agreement important dates

Best practise using A-frame tools - Learner and Course Plans



1. Be consistent with module names and codes across the Learner Plan and Course Plan
2. Be succinct with writing style. Dot points are great.
3. Be specific with pathways, strategies and goals. Describe these clearly, but briefly!
4. Focus on the main goals and explain HOW they are embedded. Incidental gains in other areas are a bonus! (This is especially relevant to the employability skills questions)
5. Recognition of Learner skills can be included in the 'requirements' section. For example, it may be a requirement of a module that learners can adhere to OH&S instructions.

From page 1 – Mirrimbeena AEG

Realising this, Coordinator Clive Atkinson tackled the problem with a creative approach. He supported the purchase of a vehicle to transport learners and then moved the training to a more distant location.

The impact was immediate and positive. Learners participated in the full training session and surprisingly, this was achieved with a reduction in expenses.

“The bus has really helped” says Clive. “Attainment levels are up and the costs are down.”

By reducing rental costs and partnering with training venues for no-charge access, Clive has created a win-win-win situation. Learners benefit, the organisation benefits, and Mirrimbeena AEG has healthy active networks and partners in learning.

Spotlight on Learn Local Award Winner: *Outstanding Pre-accredited Program: Moe Life Skills*

Moe Life Skills' Theatre Studies (MLS) program for adults with an intellectual disability delivers employability and life skills through a 'non-classroom' structure. Theatre Studies targets key employability skills and delivers results for learners in content skills learning, improved confidence, self esteem and self awareness.



The "Curtains for Certain" ensemble backstage at the 2010 production.

“Winning this award gave us recognition and actually helped us to see the quality of our program,” said Luana Brock, MLS, ACFE Coordinator.

“The cash prize lets us turn our ‘if only’ ideas into reality.”

The curriculum has been further developed with equipment and specialist staff to make the learner experience even better.

The program culminates in a ticketed production by the participants as the 'Curtains for Certain' ensemble at the local town hall to a 300-strong audience.

This is the last in the series of our spotlight on winners of the [2011 Learn Local Awards](#). Be inspired to nominate for the 2012 Awards, opening soon.



WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK!

Our newsletter gets better with your input. Click on the red suggestion box to email us with your stories, provide feedback or share ideas!

Message from the ACFE Board

Many thanks to the 138 (43%) Learn Local organisations that completed the 2011 ACE Business Survey. ACFE uses the valuable information you provide in this survey in government reporting and planning and in discussions with key stakeholders.

Highlights from the survey include:

- 88% of respondents reported adding new programs while only 22% (previously 65%) reported discontinuing programs and services
- Impact of Skills Reform – 56% reported a change in demand for their programs or services

The Changing Face of Community Business 2011 report will be published and distributed in April 2012. The 2012 survey is currently in development and will open later this year.

RECENT MEMOS – click ‘em

[2012 / 04 Short Courses Victoria website decommissioning 2012](#)

Website changes may affect you

Skills Victoria is undergoing a series of changes to develop their online tools. From 30 March 2012, the Short Courses Victoria website will be diverted to [Learn Local - Find A Course Provider](#) search. Be sure that your contact details are up-to-date on this service. [General Memo 2012/4](#) has instructions on how to do this. The [TAFE and Training Line](#) will still be able to provide some course information. To make sure they have the most up to date information, email details to tafe.courseline@edumail.vic.gov.au.

ACFE TDC Scholarship Program

ACFE supported 66 Learn Local employees to complete a Certificate IV TAE or a Diploma of TAA or equivalent. The scholarships were allocated to the Learn Local sector for the period between July and December 2011.

Keep an eye out for further professional development opportunities as the year unfolds.





NORTH WEST METRO INFORMATION

Yes, a quarter of the year has gone already- but already so much has been achieved. It was great to see so many of you at the Provider Forum, Learner Matters Network and the Community of Practice meetings. Your input is what helps make these events a success.

Thank you for all your submissions for Round 3 of the Capacity and Innovation fund. We appreciate how much thought and work goes into putting these together. In this round it was good to see applications across all four streams. We'll keep you posted about the results of your applications.

Also, well done to those organisations that have successfully completed the projects from Round 1. No doubt you are already seeing the results from your efforts.

What are communities of practice?

Communities of practice (COP) are formed by people who engage in a process of collective learning in a shared domain of human endeavour: a tribe learning to survive, a band of artists seeking new forms of expression, a group of engineers working on similar problems, a clique of pupils defining their identity in the school, a network of surgeons exploring novel techniques, a gathering of first-time managers helping each other cope.

In a nutshell: Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.

Good COPs

The NWMR has four COPs- you are welcome to join any of them at any stage- just let us know!

Marketing and Promotion COP has had their first meeting and have a plan for moving forward. The COP agreed to work collaboratively on community perceptions of Learn Local, dealing with competition, developing a 2012 marketing plan and ways to use resources effectively.

The Compliance COP kicked off with a great presentation from Elena Sheldon on SLAC's system for meeting requirements. The COP now plans to pinpoint the most crucial areas to work on in developing a 2012 compliance plan for 2012.

ICDL

Thank you for your expressions of interest in the International Computer Driver Licence pilot. We have 210 licences across the region being delivered by 18 organisations.

Upcoming events

Sustainability Community of Practice

Tuesday 14th March

9.30am – 12.30pm

Green Room, Level 1, Multicultural HUB
506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

E-Learning Community of Practice

Tuesday 20th March

Blue Room, Level 1,

Multicultural HUB, 506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

For all the year's events check out the [Learn Local Calendar](#)

On a lighter note...

Round 1 of the NWM office 'Biggest Loser' competition saw Melissa taking the win, based on percentage. Overall the team lost 2.3% of their bodyweight, and shed a total of 9.2 kg. Can we keep losing is the only question!

Cheers from the NWMR Team.