

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

five easy ways

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.





Southern Metropolitan REGIONAL INFORMATION

SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL CALENDAR

30 March 12	Commonwealth Equipment Acquittals due
3 April 12	Term 1 Enrolment Activity reports due
6 June 12	Learn Local Term 2 Forum
3 July 12	Term 2 Enrolment Activity reports due
5 September 12	Learn Local Term 3 Forum
25 September 12	Term 3 Enrolment Activity reports due
14 November 12	Learn Local Term 4 Forum
4 December 12	End of Year Enrolment Activity Reports due
15 January 13	SVTS closes

STAFF Email Contact

A number of LL Organisations are still using staff's old DPCD email addresses. At the end of the month these email addresses will be discontinued. Please update your Contacts;

Robyn - downie.robyn.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Janine - pickersgill.janine.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Miriam - cadwallader.miriam.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Kathy - jagan.kathy.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Generic Office - acfesmr@edumail.vic.gov.au

Is your Organisation planning an activity during Cultural Diversity Week, please let us know, we may be able to help, with banners and promotional material. And we would love photos.....



Glen Eira Multicultural Music, Dance & Food Festival

The four community houses in Glen Eira will be hosting a joint community celebration for the whole family to enjoy on Sunday 25 March (11am to 2.30pm) as part of Cultural Diversity Week. Over 40 nationalities will come together to celebrate and share their rich cultural diversity with the wider community. Don't miss out on this exciting event held at Bentleigh McKinnon Youth Centre, Higgins Rd, Bentleigh! For more information visit www.gealc.org.au or call 95788996.

ACFE Learn Local Logo

Providers are reminded to use the Learn Local logo in publications, promotional and advertising materials, public announcements and activities where ACFE funds are utilised. (*Do not use the ACFE logo for these publications.*) It is a contractual obligation to acknowledge the financial and other support received from the ACFE Board.

Go to the ACFE website Learn Local Toolkit to access Learn Local logos:

<http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/learnlocal-acfe/provider-services/communications-resources/logos-and-branding>

AGM Report Requirements

Many Learn Local Organisations are about to hold their AGMs. I remind you that it is a requirement that a copy of your AGM Report (*including Audited Financials*) must be submitted to the Regional Office within 1 month from the date of your AGM.

Business Viability Assessments to be submitted annually with financial reports within one month of AGM.

Quarterly Data Upload and April 2012 ACFE Payments

Please note as a minimum requirement to receive April payments you will need to **have uploaded** current Pre-accredited delivery data to SVTS (Skills Victoria Training System) online system by 20 April. **The Regional Office requests a Copy of your Enrolment Activity Report by the 3 April 2012.**

ACFESMR - Relocation Update

The regional office is moving to Dandenong on Friday, 30th March 2012. We will be off air on this day and ready for action again Monday, 2nd April 2012. Please note the phone numbers will also change, we will keep you updated.....