



## **End of year update and thank you**

**9 December 2022**

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Dear colleagues,

Though no doubt you are all very busy, I hope you are all well and looking forward to spending time with family and friends over the upcoming holiday period. As yet another challenging year draws to a close, on behalf of the Board I wish to extend our appreciation to you all, as Learn Local providers, for your important and wonderful work in supporting individuals and your communities this year. Through our visits and discussions with you, we know that you have never lost that unwavering passion for making a difference in our learner's lives. The ACFE Board wishes to acknowledge this and thank you.

As you are aware, we were scheduled to hold the gala ceremony for the 2022 Learn Local Awards in October, however due to the severe weather events Victorians faced at the time, the decision was made to postpone the ceremony, to ensure all those travelling to attend from the regions could do so safely. I am pleased to advise that the event will now be held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at Zinc at Federation Square. Further information on tickets will be released by the Department soon.

I would like to take the opportunity once again to congratulate all the finalists across the eight Award categories and wish them the best of luck. I would also like to extend my appreciation to all who nominated, it's a time-consuming process and the Board really appreciates the effort that many of you made. I hear that the innovation and quality of the work and applications continues to get better each year, which makes judging ever harder; a task I do not envy! I hope to see many of you at the Learn Local Awards to celebrate the achievements of 2022. The 2023 Learn Local Awards nominations process will open shortly after the 2022 gala ceremony, with further information to be released in the new year.

You can find out more about the Awards on the [Learn Local Awards](#) website.

I am pleased to let you know that the Board made a number of decisions at its last meeting of the year, held on 6 December, to ensure that delivery in 2023 is as well supported. The Board finalised its 2023 priorities and these will be provided to you in the New Year. You will be provided with the principles that will underpin the development and implementation of the priorities and associated work and for each of the four Board strategic directions – our learners; our partners; our people and the Board - the strategic intent, priorities and work required, and the key success measures and outcomes will be outlined. You will be able to see how your input through our consultations with you have been considered.

One key principle underpinning the priorities is for the sector to have a leadership role in developmental work, wherever possible. With that in mind, the Board has asked the Department to provide advice to the sector as soon as possible about the opportunities associated with the Board's 2023 programs, projects and initiatives. We are very keen for you to consider these and how you may work collaboratively across the sector to undertake some of the work that these opportunities present in 2023. The Department will provide an outline of these development opportunities to the sector next week.

Another of the Board's decisions was to fund measures to support providers impacted by flooding events across the state over the past few months. These include:

- Applying a further 10 per cent tolerance to pre-accredited training delivery for 2022.
- Small grants to replace damaged training materials, equipment, resources, and minor damage/clean-up not recoverable through insurance.
- A learner engagement project in each of the Hume and Loddon Mallee regions.

The Department will provide further advice about eligibility and other details in December.

It is with great sadness, that I would like to let you all know that I am resigning as a member and as the Chair of the Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board effective from the end of the first quarter of 2023. This has been a very hard decision for me, and I will miss many aspects of the role.

It has been a privilege to have been on the ACFE Board for over four years and play a role in supporting learners and a sector that makes a significant contribution to the lives and wellbeing of Victorians who face challenges in their lives and barriers to accessing education, training, and employment pathways.

I have had the honour of reporting to and working with Minister Tierney whose vision, leadership and commitment to the Learn Local sector has been unwavering. It is wonderful for the sector that she will continue to be its Minister.

It has also been most rewarding to work with so many strategic, capable and passionate Board members who have the sectors and learners' best interests at heart, with wonderful Regional Council chairs and members, and to work with all of you in the sector whose commitment, resilience and innovation constantly impresses me and never more so than in recent times. I have been most fortunate.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the ACFE Division in the department.

As always, take care, enjoy a well-deserved break and I wish you all the very best for 2023. I do hope to see many of you at the awards in late February.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Peters', written in a cursive style.

Maria Peters  
Chairperson  
Adult, Community and Further Education Board

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