

A Joint Statement from organisations working together across the Victorian Adult and Community Education (ACE) Sector



Celebrating the Dedication of Victoria's Learn Local Sector

As 2025 draws to a close, we want to acknowledge and celebrate the extraordinary commitment of the Learn Local sector and other Adult and Community Education (ACE) providers across Victoria.

This year has been challenging for many providers and their adult learners, with the pressures of rising living costs, stress, and uncertainty. Yet, the sector has consistently gone above and beyond to support learners, not only through education, but also by fostering social connections, wellbeing, and community resilience.

This work has been undertaken at a time of increasing funding constraints and growing resource pressures, placing significant strain on providers striving to meet rising learner and community need.

Through their dedication, Learn Local providers have created opportunities for learners to explore their curiosity, build confidence and skills, share knowledge, and form meaningful connections. As National and State peak not-for-profit organisations working in the field, we deeply appreciate the many educators, administrators, and behind-the-scenes staff whose tireless efforts ensure that adult and community education continues to flourish.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation for all involved in making a real difference - not only in the lives of adult learners but also in promoting broader social inclusion, health, and wellbeing, and offering pathways forward in a time of growing misinformation and inequality.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are optimistic. ACE will continue to provide opportunities for Victorians to experience the joy of learning, develop new skills and ideas, and build confidence. By working collaboratively with Victorian government departments and community agencies, the sector will keep striving to ensure no one is left behind, strengthening communities and empowering individuals across the state.

We wish all adult community educators, learners, and communities a happy, safe, festive season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year, and we look forward to continuing our work together in 2026.

Adult and Community Education (ACE)

The adult and community education sector has a long history of supporting second-chance learners, people from diverse backgrounds, and adults needing flexible and supportive learning environments.

Contacts:

Adult Learning Australia (ALA)

Visit: www.ala.asn.au Call 03 9689 8623 or email info@ala.asn.au

Adult and Community Education Victoria (ACEVIC)

Visit: <https://www.acevic.org.au> Email: eo@acevic.org.au

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVIC)

Visit: <https://www.nhvic.org.au/> Email: info@nhvic.org.au

Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council (VALBEC)

Visit: <https://valbec.org.au/>. Email: info@valbec.org.au

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