



ACE Sector Statement

Adult & Community Education Providers call for VET Policy Reform

Victoria's Adult & Community Education (ACE) sector are calling on the Victorian State Government to implement a range of policy initiatives to ensure that the provision of quality training, particularly for the most disadvantaged learners, remains viable for Adult & Community Education providers throughout Victoria. Central to this is a call to recognise the Adult & Community Education sector as a distinct sector alongside TAFE and private for-profit providers.

The previous Victorian Government treated ACE RTOs as identical to Private For Profit Registered Training Organisations, which has left the sector and the communities they serve at a considerable disadvantage.

Evidence shows that ACE Organisations have a unique delivery model, which has been proven to be particularly effective in meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged learners. ACE organisations attract a higher proportion of learners who; are unemployed, not in the labour force, have a disability, did not complete Year 12 or equivalent VET study.

ACE Organisations are the only provider type that has been able to maintain a long term presence in remote and small rural communities across the state, playing a particularly important role in strengthening those communities.

We recognise and support the need for quality assurance in VET and the prudent use of public funds. However, the failure to tailor policies specific to the circumstances of the ACE sector has led to compliance and reporting regimes that are disproportionate to the actual risks, reduced access to learning for vulnerable learners associated with a loss of accredited and pre-accredited adult education.

We call on the Victorian State Government to reverse this trend by:

1. Having separate, distinct VET funding contracts that recognise the unique approach of ACE providers.
2. Quarantining foundation and non-school VCAL studies to TAFE and ACE providers and restoring the foundation skills student contact hour funding rate to the 2013 level.
3. Limiting the number of for profit RTOs accessing Victorian Training Guarantee funding.
4. Providing discrete funding for equipment, infrastructure, delivery, system changes, support staffing and resources.
5. Giving providers a minimum of six months notice of changes to system funding, contractual and regulatory requirements.
6. Raising the profile of the sector across all governments at the bureaucratic and political level.
7. Implementing sustained visible promotional campaigns to raise the public awareness of the sector.
8. Expanding the pre-accredited funding criteria to include courses that contribute to social capital outcomes.
9. Providing a net real increase to the pre-accredited student contact hour funding rate and annual indexing to the educational CPI.
10. Increasing the number of available pre-accredited student contact hours.
11. Advocating at COAG for better alignment of federal programs and state based administered and funded programs.
12. Reducing the audit/compliance burden by sharing relevant information between regulatory and funding bodies.
13. Ensuring that compliance requirements are relative to the size of the organisation, level of government funding and risk.

Signatories

Advance PETP
Angliss Neighbourhood House

Arrabri Community House Inc
Avenue Neighbourhood House @ Eley
Bacchus Marsh Community College Inc
Ballan & District Community House & Adult Education Centre Inc.
Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre
Banksia Gardens Community Services
Baranduda Community Centre
Bass Coast Adult Education Centre
Bass Valley Community Group Inc.
Beaufort Community House & Learning Centre
Beechworth Neighbourhood House
Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House and Collingwood Neighbourhood House
Bellarine Living and Learning Centre Inc
Belgrade Ave Community Centre, Wodonga
Belgrave South Community House Inc.
Belvedere Community Centre Inc.
Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC)
BRACE Education and Training
Brentwood Park Neighbourhood House
Brunswick Neighbourhood House
Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre
Castlefield Community Centre
Castlemaine Community House
Castlemaine Continuing Education
CEACA (Alexandra)
Churchill Neighbourhood Centre
Cloverdale Community Centre
Community College Gippsland
Community West Victoria Ltd
Coonara Community House
Corinella and District Community Centre
Craigieburn Education and Community Centre Inc.
Cranbourne Community House Inc.
Dallas Neighbourhood House
Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre
Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre
Diversitat - Training & Education
Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services
Doveton Neighbourhood Learning Centre
Duke St Community House
Echuca Community Education Group Incorporated (T/A: Campaspe College of Adult Education and Campaspe Youth Empowerment Services)
Echuca Neighbourhood House Inc
Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre Incorporated
Emerald Community House
Endeavour Hill Neighbourhood Centre
Euroa Community Education Centre
Farnham Street learning Centre
Felltimber Community Centre, Wodonga
Finbar Neighbourhood House
Footscray Community Arts Centre
Foster District Community House & Learning Centre
Geelong West Neighbourhood House
Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre
Glenroy Neighbourhood Learning Centre
Godfrey Street Community House
Goldfilelds Employment and Learning Centre
Gormandale Community House
Haddon Community Learning Centre
Hallam Community Learning Centre Inc
Hampton Community Centre
Healesville Living and Learning Centre
Heyfield Community Resource Centre

Highett Neighbourhood Community House Inc.
Holden Street Neighbourhood House
Jesuit Community College
Jika Jika Community Centre
Kaniva LINK Neighbourhood House
Kensington Neighbourhood House
Kerang and District Community Centre Inc
Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre
Keysborough Learning Centre
Kyabram Community & Learning Centre Inc
Kyneton Community and Learning Centre
Lakes Entrance Neighbourhood House
Lalor Living & Learning Centre
Langwarrin Community Centre Inc.
Lara Community Centre
Laverton Community Centre & Neighbourhood House
Living & Learning Inc. (Pakenham)
Living and Learning at Ajani Inc
Living and Learning Nillumbik
Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre
Longbeach Place Inc
Lyrebird Community Centre, Carrum Downs
MACE Inc
Macedon Ranges Further Education Centre
Maldon Neighbourhood Centre
Meadow Heights Education Centre
Merinda Park Learning and Community Centre
Mill Park Community House
Milpara Community House
Mitcham Community House Inc.
Moe Life Skills
Moe Neighbourhood House Inc
Moongala Women's Community House
Morwell Neighbourhood House
Mount Beauty Neighbourhood Centre
Mount Martha Community Learning Centre Inc
Mountain District Learning Centre
Mulgrave Neighbourhood House Inc
Narre Community Learning Centre
Newport Community Education Centre
North Carlton Railway House
North Melbourne Language & Learning
North Ringwood Community House
Oakgrove Community Centre.
Ocean Grove Neighbourhood Centre Inc
Olympic Adult Education
Orana Neighbourhood House Committee of Management
Park Orchards Community House & Learning Centre
Paynesville Neighbourhood Centre Inc.
Phillip Island Community & Learning Centre
Pines Learning
Port Fairy Community House
Port Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre Inc
Port Phillip Community Group
Portland Workskills Inc
Prahran Community Learning Centre Inc
Preston Neighbourhood House
Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education (PRACE)
Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House
Rainbow Learning Group & Neighbourhood House Inc
Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre
Richmond Community Learning Centre
Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House

Robinson Reserve Neighbourhood House
Robinvale Network House
Roeswall Neighbourhood Centre
Rosedale Neighbourhood House
Rushworth Community House Inc
Rye Beach Community Centre
Sale Neighbourhood House
Sandybeach Centre
Selby Community House
Shepparton ACE College
Skillsplus
Somerville Community House Inc.
Span Community House
Spring Dale Neighbourhood Centre Inc
Springvale Learning and Activities Centre
Springvale Neighbourhood House
Sussex Neighbourhood House
Tatura Community House
The Basin Community House
The Centre Wangaratta and Benalla
The Centre: Connecting Community in North and West Melbourne Inc
The Maldon Neighbourhood Centre
Thornbury Women's Neighbourhood House
Tongala Community Centre
Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning House
Trentham Neighbourhood Centre
Tullamarine Community House Inc.
Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre
Upper Yarra Community House
Vines Road Community Centre
Warragul Community House
Waverley Community Learning Centre
Wavlink Inc.
Wedderburn Community House
Wellsprings for Women Inc
Williamstown Community and Education Centre
Winchelsea Community House
Wingate Avenue Community Centre
Wycheproof Community Resource Centre
Wyndham Community and Education Centre
Yarraville Community Centre
Yarrowonga Neighbourhood House
YouthNow

Dated: Thursday 5 March, 2015