

Strengthening Adult Community Education (ACE)

Fact Sheet 1
May 2017

The Department of State Development, with Community Centres SA is strengthening the Adult Community Education (ACE) Program for 2018/19 and beyond through a comprehensive engagement process with stakeholders.



the community learning gateway for people who face social and economic barriers to participation in formal learning.

The ACE program provides a supportive entry point for people to participate in learning and to transition to volunteering, further education, training and work.

For further information, please visit the Community Centres SA website, <https://www.communitycentressa.asn.au/capa/citybuilding/adult-community-education>.

Background

In Australia, there has been an increased focus on a group of non-technical skills, described as foundation skills, that are considered essential to effective and successful participation in learning, training and work.

Foundation skills are defined as the combination of:

- English language, literacy and numeracy - listening, speaking, reading, writing, digital literacy and use of mathematical ideas; and
- Employability skills - collaboration, problem solving, self-management and learning, as well as information and communication technology required for participation in modern workplaces and contemporary life.

In South Australia, the ACE Program is well-established and has a proud history of being

Engagement approach

This engagement process will seek feedback to the question “what would a stronger ACE Program look like?” We want to hear from the community and stakeholders who have suggestions for strengthening the ACE Program in South Australia.

In 2016, engagement with the ACE sector identified five key themes. We want to build on these key themes, which are:

1. Funding certainty and length of funding arrangements.
2. Improving connections with other programs and services in order to support transitions for participants.
3. Communications and marketing of ACE to attract partners and participants.
4. Streamlining program management including reporting, data and evaluation.

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5. Sector capacity and development to deliver on program outcomes – what do ACE providers need to improve program outcomes? What do participants need to improve their experience?

Community and stakeholder input will identify strategies for improving the ACE Program, particularly in relation to:

- program outcomes
- measures of success
- transitions and pathways for participants
- accessibility for participants
- provider capacity and capability building

We want to find out what is working well, what could be improved and new opportunities to strengthen ACE.

Stakeholder and community engagement will help shape the updated ACE Program Statement and Guidelines for 2018/19 and beyond, which will be co-designed with Community Centres SA.

Key milestones

The engagement process in 2017 will include:

- **Preliminary engagement** with a broad range of stakeholders, communities and ACE participants: May 2017.
- **Co-design of a Strengthened ACE Program Statement and Guidelines:** June 2017.
- **Consultation** on the draft ACE Statement and Guidelines for 2018/19 and beyond: July 2017.

- **Launch** of the 2018/19 ACE Program Statement: late 2017.

How can I access the ACE Program?

ACE provides learning programs in a supportive community setting, making it particularly valuable for learners who want to engage or re-engage in learning.

The ACE program is delivered by over 50 providers who meet the Program's selection criteria and are not-for-profit, community based education and training organisations.

ACE programs are locally developed, locally delivered and locally owned. The programs are delivered throughout South Australia by community centres, local councils, libraries and other community based organisations.

To find an ACE provider in your local area, please visit

<http://www.skills.sa.gov.au/training-learning/adult-community-education>

Have your say

You can provide your ideas, suggestions and feedback by:

- Visiting: www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/ace
- Emailing: DSD.ACEinfo@sa.gov.au
- Calling: DSD InfoLine on 1800 506 266

Join our mailing list via web, phone or email so we can keep you informed of progress on Strengthening the ACE program.

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