

HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Working together to deliver meaningful outcomes



What does our Division do and what is the Learner Pathways Strategy?

1. Summary of Higher Education and Workforce Development
2. We are developing the **Learner Pathways Strategy** to ensure that the Department's programs to support disadvantaged Victorians are:
 - Well designed to meet the scale and spectrum of need;
 - Effective in delivering outcomes;
 - Recognised and understood by other portfolio areas; and
 - Able to achieve impact through improved collaboration and coordination across government.

What are the key issues?

1. Program Fragmentation
2. Strategic Intent
3. Impact of COVID-19

What are the proposed outputs?

1. **Develop an overarching strategy** that enables disengaged Victorians to access a vocational learning pathway
2. **Develop options for the improvement** of the range of pathway support programs (including options for consolidation)
3. **Raise the profile** of the engagement, participation and inclusion work being undertaken by the Department amongst other government departments, community sector and the VET sector

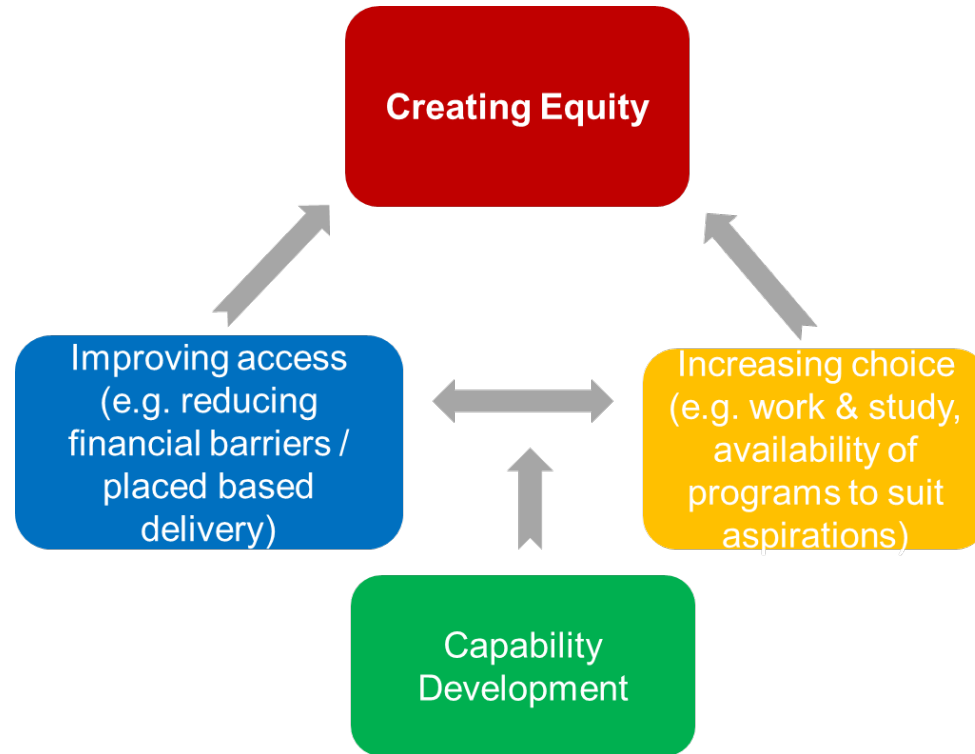
THE RECONNECT PROGRAM



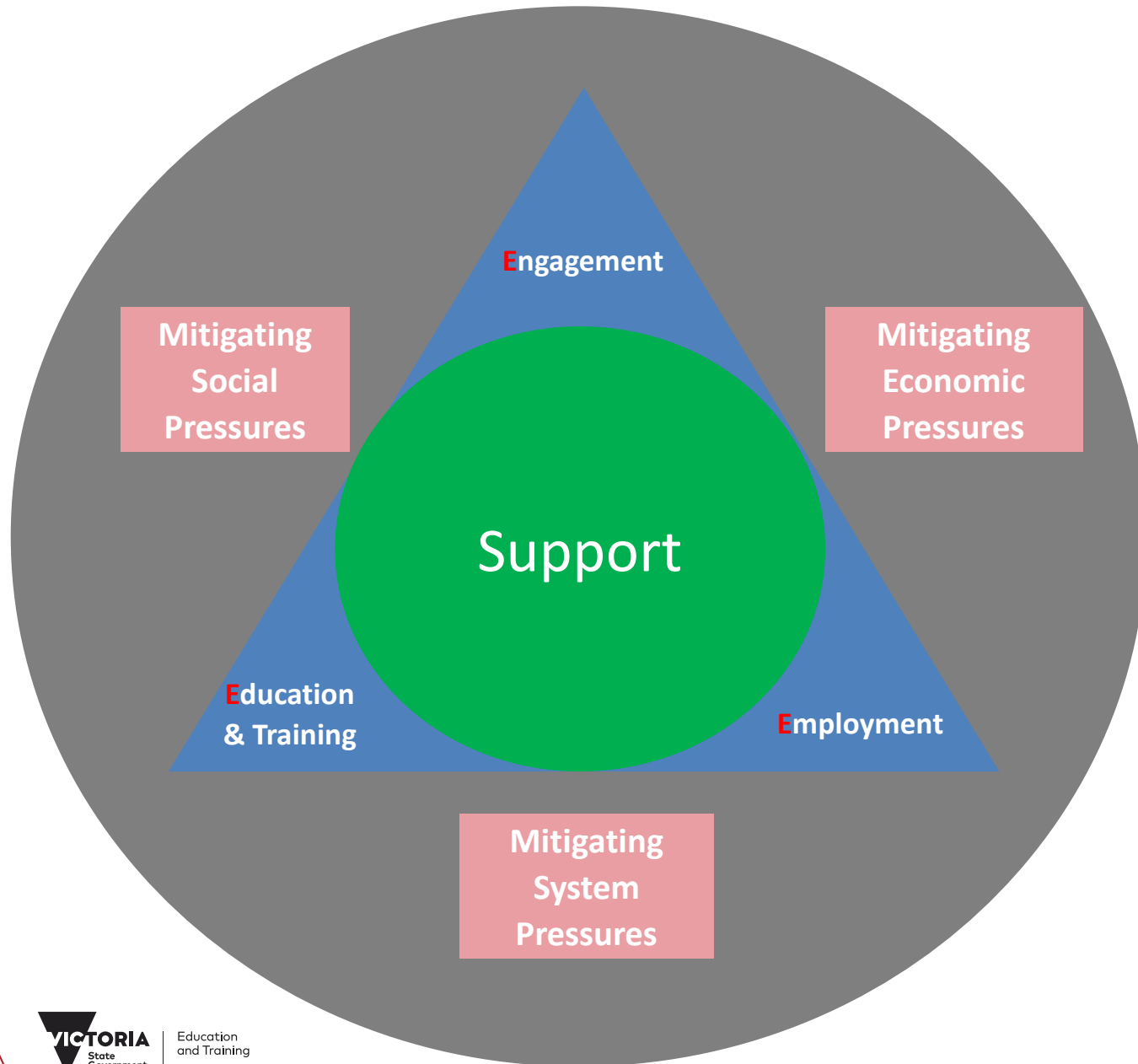
Education
and Training

RECONNECT

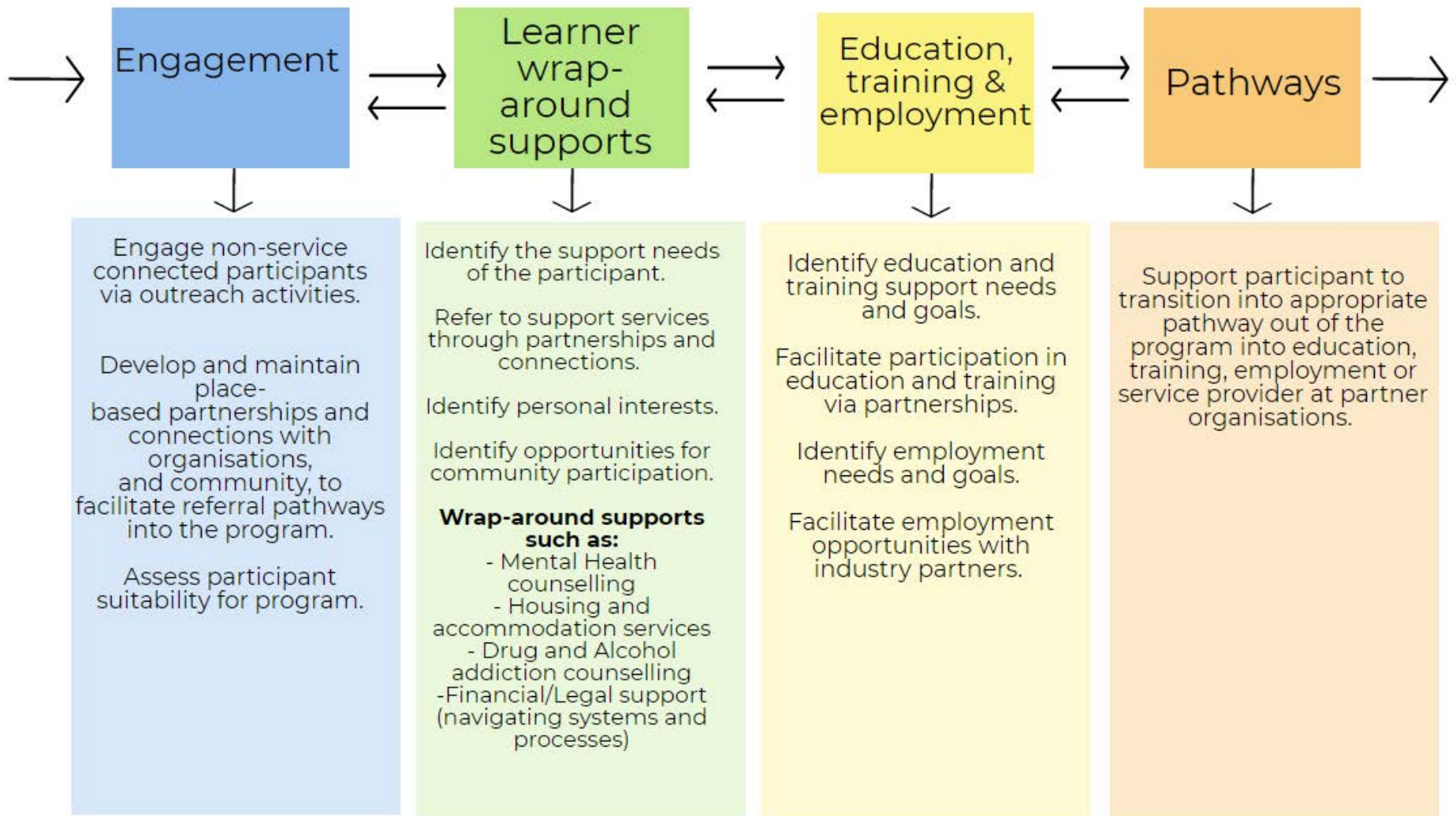
Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage & Building Sector Capability through the Reconnect Program



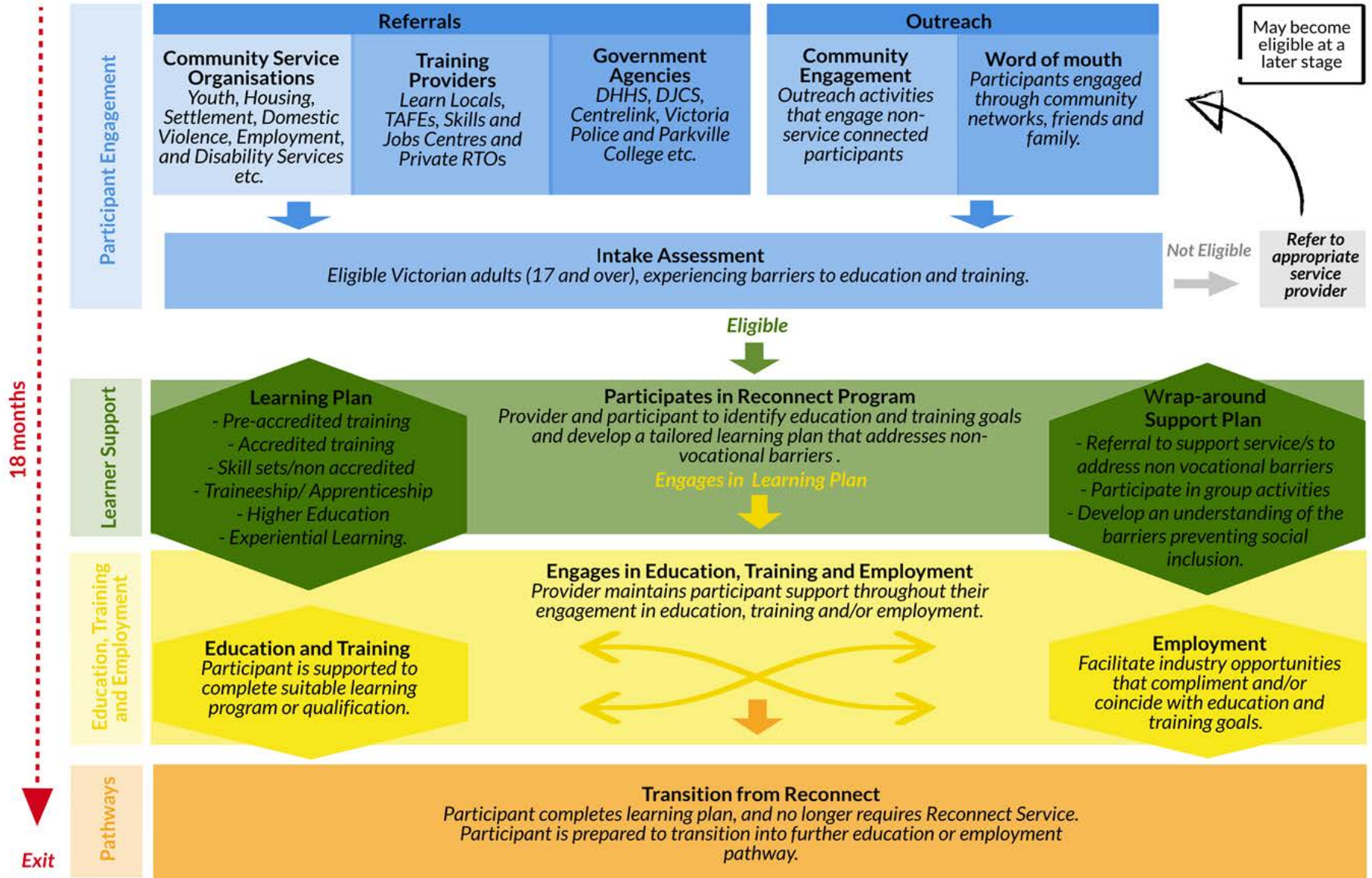
A connected approach to alleviating disadvantage



RECONNECT: PROGRAM ELEMENTS



RECONNECT: PROGRAM MODEL



RECONNECT

The Victorian Government funds selected providers to deliver the Reconnect program across the state. This provision enables the facilitation of outreach and engagement, comprehensive referral processes for tailored wrap-around support, assessment of learning needs & co-development of work and learning plan to effectively transition them into education, training or employment.

CURRENT PARTICIPATION

90% NO PREVIOUS QUALIFICATION 

80% UNEMPLOYED 

60% WOMEN 

18% AGED OVER 45 

54% AGED UNDER 25 

The Mitchell Institute estimates that the fiscal and social cost of **one disengaged person** in Australia, is **\$37,900 per year**.

PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES



10,000

Number of participants in the program since 2016

65%

Percentage of current participants that have transitioned into vocational pathways 



1,700

Number of participants registered in 2021

STRENGTHS

Place -based

Responsive to local needs and harnesses community resources

Learner -Centred

Participants receive tailored and responsive support and their needs are always the priority

Experts

Experts provide intensive support to facilitate required interventions and appropriate vocational pathways.

Collaborative

Reconnect has been designed to promote collaboration and decrease competition.

VULNERABLE COHORTS

30 % With a disability

35 % Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

7 % Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

DELIVERY

State-wide reach delivering in all **79 LGAs**

34 providers, made up of **11 TAFEs**, **11 Learn Local** and **two Community Service Organisations**.

RECONNECT REDESIGN KEY CONCEPTS



*The Reconnect **key program concepts**, detailed below, are based on evidence of best practice and an extensive consultation process and are intended to promote continuous improvement and enhance program outcomes.*

- Increase **coordinated local response**
- Harness **inter-governmental and interdepartmental** resources and facilitate opportunities for collaboration
- Maintain and enhance **agility and flexibility** of the program to improve responsiveness to priorities
- Provide contractual recognition of **whole-of-student-journey**
- Improve **provider/DET relationships**
- **Enable providers** to sustain and strengthen existing practices
- Increase **capacity building** of Reconnect workforce
- Revise **Expression of Interest** process
- Expand **provider eligibility** to CSOs
- Leverage **data management** capabilities to reduce admin burden
- Implement qualitative **reporting** that informs and improves practice
- Ensure **funding provision** that encourages collaborative, responsive and sustainable service delivery
- Provide **contract periods** that reflect the service delivery (VET calendar year)
- Revise funding structure to encourages **partnerships and collaboration** and reduce administrative burden.
- Ensure flexibility in **participant eligibility** to encourage responsive practice
- Ensure **delivery distribution** based on data analysis.
- Absorb participants from other **concluding programs**

RECONNECT

REVISING PROGRAM ASPECTS & ENHANCING OUTCOMES

ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY

Improve data analytics to respond to local need

Use available data to mitigate over-servicing in and under-servicing. Improve methodology for calculating provider capacity, and increase agility.

FUNDING STRUCTURE

Review funding parameters and milestones

Increase certainty for providers and improve consistency and reliability for participants

CAPABILITY BUILDING

Increase Professional Development & improve networks

Reduces the programs capacity for continuous improvement and enhancing outcomes.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Implement the strategy

In consultation with stakeholders identify roles and responsibilities and implement the strategy.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Requires recognition of whole-of-learner journey

Broadening success will enable providers to work in an authentic learner centered approach to achieve participants vocational aspirations.

INTER- CONNECTIVITY

Strengthen interrelationships and reduce barriers

LGA distribution, funding parameters, recognised outcomes and capped targets create challenges for effective partnerships and collaboration. Improve Government inter-connectivity externally and internally to strengthen referral structures.

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Improve aspects of program to increase responsiveness

Reduce restrictions and parameters to increase ability to respond to emerging Government Priorities such as family violence and mental health.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Does not reflect complex barriers to VET

Revise current program eligibility to improve access for long term disengaged and emerging priority cohorts.