A Matter of Perspective
Engaging Adults – Challenges for Regional and Rural Communities

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Organisational Perspective

• Sustainable delivery models that build on collaborative approaches
• Utilising strengths of different organisations and reduce duplication (resources, time)
• Structured pathways with learner at the centre
• Matching learners with courses at the right level
• Flexible, engaging, customised delivery models
• Embedded literacy and numeracy
• Teacher experience and expertise
Organisational Perspective

• Continuity of relationships and offerings
• Focus on strengths based approach
• Relevance (to learners’ life, circumstances)
• Link to interest – soft entry to develop skills
• LINC and Child & Family Centres provide safe, familiar place, familiar faces, continuity of relationships, informal learning environments, literacy support
Learner Perspective

Regional and remote communities often experience lower than average levels of literacy, and higher than average levels of unemployment and educational attainment.

Building the capacity and readiness of learners in regional and remote areas, and supporting them to overcome barriers is critical.

Need to address underlying factors/issues before real engagement is possible.
Learner Perspective

Factors/Issues likely to impact include:

• Different motivations and views in relation to perceived value of learning
• Fees, funding models and policy – social welfare requirements (work placement versus training)
• Lack of positive role models - intergenerational
• Previous learning experiences - lack of success
• Below average literacy, social, employability skills
Learner Perspective

- Social Isolation - limited public transport – cost of running a car
- Health/family commitments/teenage pregnancy
- Cost of courses
- Economic conditions - employment opportunities
- Often a lack of clear direction and purpose
- Absence of planning and structured pathways, cohesion or framework for learning – “churn” through programs
Community Perspective

• Community vision and commitment
• Collaborative approaches – good opportunities in regional and remote areas
• Support – needs go beyond learning – recognise and deal with underlying factors
• Value all forms of learning – informal/formal, non-accredited/accredited
• Recognition of importance of participation in its own right – learner confidence
Community Perspective

• Maximise and make the most of limited resources
• Community links to networks, role models, mentors, support structures – “trusted circle”
• Partnerships can make a real difference
• LINC is an important player, but best outcomes result from strong collaboration and partnerships
• GTCH – multiple partnerships with range of community groups/organisations
• Whole of community approach important
Conclusion

• Long term vision and commitment – keep focused on the future
• Community engagement – connect at all levels
• Collaboration and consistency
• Keep the learner at the centre
• Acknowledge and build on strengths
• Set realistic expectations - it takes time
• Best outcomes when different perspectives align
THANK YOU

Questions