

What is AccessACE?

The AccessACE research project is an initiative funded by the ACFE Board. This research project will investigate the role of Information Communications Technology (ICT) enabled delivery as part of a blended delivery strategy that can increase participation by learners in ACE education and training.

Blended delivery combines the best features of classroom-based teaching and learning with the best features of ICT enabled learning in order to enhance the educational experience of learners and also provide students with greater flexibility to access a wider range of learning opportunities.

The aim of the project is to stimulate the uptake of blended delivery models which would offer ACE providers the capacity to deliver a greater variety of programs to individuals and small groups in a supportive and highly flexible manner. It will build on current and previous initiatives and support managers and teachers in making informed decisions about tools and technologies available to them in the delivery of their courses.

The objectives of the project are to:

- To support sustainable models of blended delivery that support flexibility and accessibility for ACFE Board priority learner groups in ACE across Victoria.
- To research, describe and trial at least three ICT enabled blended delivery models.
- To develop an action plan and lessons learned document to assist ACE providers in planning blended delivery strategies.

The project will be conducted from February to December 2007 and will involve two phases.

Phase 1: Research and consultation. The first phase project will involve research into current blended delivery models, and will culminate in a consultation session with Regional Councils, ACE providers and Adult Education Institutions (AEIs) to gather information around implementation issues and the suitability of the available tools and technologies.

Phase 2: Design and delivery of three trials. In semester two ACE providers and AEIs will be invited to participate in three trials to test three blended delivery models.

The trials will be conducted over an eight week period between July and September, and will involve a specific learner group as negotiated with participating ACE providers and AEIs. There will be funding available to support participating teachers. Interested participants will also be funded to conduct action research during the trial period.

This phase of the project will complement and extend the work done by ACE LearnScope teams and workshops in 2007.

How can you get involved in the AccessACE project?

- Catch up with what is happening in the project by adding the project blog address to your favourites and RSS feeds. You can read and comment on the project's progress by going to:
<http://accessace.edublogs.org>
- Participate in the research online by contributing information and ideas via the AccessACE project wiki at:
<http://accessace.wikispaces.com>
- Put ICT enabled teaching and learning on your agenda – start thinking of how you may want to reach a particular target group through a blended delivery approach.

AccessACE project fact sheets and information bulletins will be made available to you regularly throughout 2007. Read these project fact sheets and information bulletins and distribute them to colleagues within your organisation.

What is a blog and a wiki?

Look out for the next edition of AccessACE information sheets – you will get detailed information about our blog and wiki and how to access them.

How can I find out more?

If you would like more information, please contact Josie Rose at the SMR ACFE regional office on:

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