



Agrifood Skills RTO Forum 2009

Rydges Hotel Bell City, Preston Melbourne 30 July 2009

Held in conjunction with Sustainable Futures 2009, a national conference - run by Primary Industry Curriculum Maintenance Manager - agriculture, horticulture and conservation and land management teacher networks (details Page 4).

Registered training organisations are invited to attend AgriFood Skills' RTO Forum 2009 at Preston in Victoria on 30 July 2009.

The forum will bring together key RTOs and AgriFood Skills to discuss policy changes to the national training system and industry expectations resulting from these changes. The AgriFood Skills focus is on supporting industry and RTOs in implementation and assessment.

By attending the Forum, RTOs will be able to participate in a series of panel sessions and take home a clearer understanding of the potential impact of policy changes and how they can work towards implementing changes in a more systematic way.

The RTO Forum will include key speakers who were directly involved in recent policy review, industry representatives who have developed partnerships with RTOs and selected panel members - who will present their advice and alternative views. A diverse range of public and private RTOs will be attending.

A recently released report, Vet Products for the 21st Century, reflects the outcome of project work by a joint steering committee of the National Quality Council (NQC) and COAG's Skills and Workforce Development Sub-Group supports the approach being taken by AgriFood Skills.

RTO FORUM MANAGER
DAVID GREENTREE

INQUIRIES:

Reception at AgriFood Skills

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ACCOMMODATION
OPTIONS

Rydges Hotel Bell City
(at Conference Centre)

205 Bell Street, Preston

4 ½ stars from \$299

Self contained 'Aluxstay' \$239

Sleep&Go \$95

T: **03 9485 0100**

Bell Motor Inn

2 Patterson Street, Preston

3 ½ stars from \$165

T: **03 9480 2099**

Jika International

551 Heidelberg Road, Fairfield

4 stars from \$140

T: **03 9481 2822**

BRIDGING THE GAP MODEL

The RTO Forum provides an opportunity for AgriFood Skills to formally launch its Bridging the gap model, which seeks to encourage industry and RTOs to work more closely in partnership and thus to maximise the return on investment in education and training.

Bridging the gap reflects industry expectations and explores new opportunities to deliver outcomes that will improve skill acquisition. This will provide the training system that is more responsive and relevant to a contemporary workforce. *Bridging the gap* helps to explain the architecture for many of the system reforms being planned by AgriFood Skills.

Environmental Scan 2009

Earlier this year AgriFood Skills released its industry Environmental Scan 2009 *Assuming the mantle*, which brought into sharp relief three defining skills and workforce development issues:

- » attraction and retention of skilled and semi-skilled workers
- » adoption of higher skill levels across the workforce
- » adoption and dissemination of new research, practice and technology across the industry

The Environmental Scan identified key areas of necessary policy reform:

- » creation of fiscal and policy environment that enables the delivery of incremental building blocks of skills in addition to full qualifications
- » reform of the funding model to enable targeted flexible training in rural and remote Australia
- » re-conceiving vocational education and training as a whole-of-business, solutions-driven approach to workforce development.

New thinking

The message to AgriFood Skills from industry was that while the training system and the qualifications it delivers have served Australia well, we have been slow to reconsider their purpose in line with the needs of 21st century economy. The scan concluded that training in isolation, even at its most effective, was not a sufficient response. Importantly, we need to ensure that high-quality training outcomes are achieved in meeting industry needs.

A new paradigm is needed that uses training and drives the dissemination of research findings, to build an understanding of skills utilisation, career paths and meaningful job design. It should embrace the various aspects of effective workforce development under one system and one coherent policy.

The training system's traditional commitment to full qualifications as the currency for learning is now at odds with the way many sectors acquire skilled workers, such as those displaced from other industries.

Entry level is often a discrete set of skills built up over time using skill sets, on-the-job training and progressive recognition of required skills required. A model is needed that flexibly delivers incremental building blocks of skills - in addition to full qualifications.

The current funding model for the delivery of public training is one of the biggest barriers to skills development in regional and remote Australia. This requires - as a matter of priority - a flexible, client-focused funding model that genuinely supports customised training solutions.

Recognised quality training plays a key role in attracting and retaining new workers to the industry by injecting higher-level skills into the existing workforce and by defusing the latest practices across the industry. It must, however, be delivered as part of a whole-of-business solution.

RTO FORUM AGENDA

THURSDAY 30TH JULY 2009

9.00am **Opening address and welcome**

Arthur Blewitt CEO AgriFood Skills

9.20am **21st Century Training Products Project**

- Project background
- Policy framework
- Current project work

9.40am **Quality delivery of Training Packages**

David Greentree AgriFood Skills

- AgriFood training package reviews
- Bridging the gap
- RTO's professional development
- Auditor workshops
- Industry forums
- RPL and assessment

10.00am **Panel session – Interpreting the national training system = the RTO perspective**

11.00am **MORNING TEA**

11.30am **What does it mean for industry**

John Weichert (GM NCDEA)

- Dairy industry skilling requirements
- NCDEA history and outcomes
- Industry RTO partnerships
- Future expectations

12.30pm **LUNCH**

1.30pm **Panel Session**

- Assessment, RPL strategies, training delivery innovation

2.40pm **What does it mean for industry?**

John Neylan (GM AGCSA)

- Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association

3.00pm **AFTERNOON TEA**

3.30pm **Panel session**

- Where to next-future challenges for RTOs

4.50pm **Conclusion**

Arthur Blewitt

5.00pm **Close**

6.30pm **DINNER**



INDUSTRY

Key job function identified

Results achieved aligned to business needs

Performance aligned to work standards

Evidence registered

BRIDGING THE GAP

between industry and registered training organisations (RTOs)

About BTG

Shared products

(managed by AgriFood Skills Australia)

Qualification user guides

Skill set guides

Evidence registers

Articulation advice

Learning and assessment guides

RTO

National qualifications agreed

National competency standards selected

Learning program designed

Sustainable Futures 2009

The RTO Forum will be held in conjunction with Sustainable Futures 2009, a national conference for national agriculture, horticulture and conservation and land management teacher networks.

Sustainable Futures 2009 will comprise a one-day Teacher Network Tour to various locations in greater Melbourne (Wednesday 29 July), and a Combined National Teacher Network Seminar Day (Friday 31st of July).

Sustainable Futures 2009 is an annual event for the national teaching networks for agriculture, horticulture and conservation and land management.

Contact

For information regarding conference tours and teacher seminars:

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