**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #50**

**Information for Water Industry Managers, Human Resources Personnel and Employees in the Queensland Water Industry**

**(Issue #50 –  31 August 2016)**

**1.  National Training Product Reform - Consultation**

**2. Youth Jobs PaTH Employer Incentives**

**3. 2016/17 Queensland VET Investment Plan**

**4. WIOA FNQ Interest Day – 6th October**

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**1. National Training Product Reform - Consultation**

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The COAG Industry and Skills Council (CISC) agreed on 1 April 2016 to commence further longer term work to ensure that training products remain relevant in the future and support skills development as technology, jobs and industries change. A work program for CISC consideration is currently in development. A National Training Product Reform Group provides oversight of this work.

The Reform Group is interested in industry views on the effectiveness of Training Products in the vocational training system and how it might make them more effective into the long-term future, and in particular in industry responses to four sets of related questions. There is one survey designed for industry and a separate survey for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

The Queensland Department of Education and Training is coordinating the process for gathering feedback in Queensland including consultation through industry advisory bodies. Industry representatives and RTOs are invited to complete the relevant survey and email to mhill@qldwater.com.au (collated responses for the water industry will be provided to the Department). ***qldwater*** will also make an industry submission on behalf of members.

Access the industry survey [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_218974/Industry_Survey_-_National_Training_Product_Reform) and RTO surrey [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_218975/RTO_Survey_-_National_Training_Product_Reform). The closing date for responses is Thursday 15 September 2016

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**2. Youth Jobs PaTH Employer Incentives**

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Youth Jobs PaTH is a $752 million Australian Government initiative designed to support young people under the age of 25 years to gain the employability skills and real work experience they need to get and keep a job, and provides incentives for employers to take them on. The Youth Jobs PaTH provides three elements: Prepare – Trial – Hire. Further information on the trial and hire elements is below.

*Internships (Trial)*

From 1 April 2017, job seekers, employers and employment service providers can work together to design work experience placements which will run for between 4 to 12 weeks. Businesses that take on an intern will benefit from the opportunity to see what a young person can do in the workplace and how they fit into the team. The business will also receive an upfront payment of $1000 in recognition of the costs of hosting the internship.

*Youth Bonus Wage Subsidy (Hire)*

Provides an incentive of up to $10,000 paid over six months to employers who hire an eligible young job seeker. All wage subsidies will be made simpler, and can be packaged with Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme payments, to encourage employers to create apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities. Find out more information on [existing wage subsidies](https://www.employment.gov.au/wage-subsidies).

For more information see the Youth Job PaTH webpage <http://www.employment.gov.au/youth-jobs-path>.

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**3. 2016/17 Queensland VET Investment Plan**

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The 2016/17 Qld VET Investment Plan was released late July. Funding arrangements for water industry qualifications (National Water Training Package) under the following programs have changed minimally (minor increases/decreases to funding levels):

* User Choice - Certificate II and Certificate III level NWP qualifications continue to be funded as Priority 1
* Certificate 3 Guarantee - Certificate III level NWP qualifications funded.
* Higher Level Skills - Certificate IV and Diploma level NWP qualifications funded.

There will be a strengthened program for Pre-Qualified Suppliers (RTOs approved to deliver funded training) including key changes such as;

* no automatic rollover of contracts (this may impact planned enrolments if RTOs have not yet signed new contracts)
* strengthened pre-qualified supplier entry requirements, including a one-year minimum trading history in Queensland
* enhanced pre-qualified supplier risk profiling to identify investment risks, and inform pre-qualified supplier management and risk mitigation strategies.

Further details are available on the Department of Education and Training website - <https://training.qld.gov.au/docs-data/strategies/vetinvest>.

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**4. WIOA FNQ Water Interest Day – 6th October**

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The Water Industry Operators Association (WIOA) will be holding a Water Interest Day with optional Charity Bowls afternoon in Cairns on Thursday 6 October.

A flyer with the full program for the day is available [**here**](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=219063).  The event is free for WIOA members and invited guests.

For further information or to register:

Website: [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au)

Email: craig@wioa.org.au

Phone: (03) 5821 6744

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