

Australian Businesses Responding to Productivity Challenge with Government Funded Training

Wednesday February 3, 2010. Australia-wide Business Training Pty Ltd (**awbt**) Chief Executive Larry Gould has confirmed that there are a growing number of new and existing clients contacting **awbt** to obtain advice on the funding provided by Federal and State Government for developing staff. These programs have been designed to enable employers to upskill key employees and build management and leadership succession plans as Australia emerges from the global financial crisis.

In response to these enquiries **awbt** has implemented a range of activities including;

- Receiving endorsement from the Victorian Skills Commission, (the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development) to deliver training to eligible individuals under “*Securing Jobs for Your Future*” via the State Training Guarantee arrangement.
- Establishing a formal alliance with a National Apprenticeship Centre (NAC), through this facility clients are able to access Federal Government funding for traineeships.
- Receiving approval by the Victorian State Government as a Tailored Advisory Service Consultant under the Enterprise Connect program. This program provides SME’s with access to specialist consultants (with funding support) to assist them to become more innovative, efficient and competitive so that they can lift their productivity and operational efficiency.
- L&D professional Danny Mitrovski heads **awbt**’s business services area and works with businesses to identify their strategic business objectives and then assists them to develop and implement workforce / training programs – many of which are eligible for Federal and State Government funding.

Commenting on **awbt**’s approval by the Victorian Skills Commission, Larry Gould said that the arrangement was a very welcome endorsement of the

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L&D provider's longevity and marketplace reputation.

"The challenge for Australian businesses in the future will be to ensure that they have a well trained, flexible, competent workforce, but more importantly, that they have managers and leaders with the capacity to adapt and respond to marketplace changes and customer demands," said Larry Gould.

"The Victorian State and Federal Governments are to be commended for their commitment to assisting Australian based businesses in addressing the "Skills Challenge" by providing the funding needed to enable employers to implement training and development programs that will enhance the skills, competency and capacity of their employees, managers and key members of staff."

Larry Gould noted Prime Minister Rudd's Australia Day reception speech in Melbourne on January 18, where he said that it is productivity growth that must play the central role in building Australia's future economic growth and that failure to do so, will mean that Australia will struggle to meet the major challenges facing the economy in the decades ahead.

"A highly educated, trained, flexible, efficient and knowledgeable workforce is the foundation upon which Australian businesses can enhance their capacity to expand, innovate, increase and improve productivity," added Larry Gould.

"However, to do so, businesses need to train, develop and fine tune the skills of managers / supervisors and employees in key positions by having a proactive approach to the learning and development of their workforce." In turn these programs will assist business in achieving increased profitability.

awbt has confirmed that as the Australian economy gathers momentum, businesses are responding quickly and taking advantage of the targeted Government funded incentives.

HR Managers and business owners are welcome to contact Danny Mitrovski at **awbt** for details of the funding, requirements and accredited programs. Contact details are as follows –

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“Australian businesses in growing numbers are moving quickly to secure their future in the post GFC global economy by investing in their *‘human capital’* and implementing workforce based professional and personal development programs.”

“It is unfortunate that there are many businesses that have not taken advantage of the Government funded incentives to invest in the development of their staff and managers, and in failing to do so, are gambling with their future business potential, viability and profitability,” concluded Larry Gould.

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