News Release

Minister Grace Portolesi
Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills
Minister for Science and Information Economy

Wednesday, 12 February 2014

$3.4 million for workforce training

The South Australian Government is partnering with 18 businesses to provide targeted training in the manufacturing sector to improve worker productivity and diversify worker’s skills.

Skills Minister Grace Portolesi said these organisations have set out a plan detailing the skills they think their workers need for the future of their industry.

“This funding means over 500 workers will be trained in areas identified by their employers as being of strategic importance,” she said.

“This will increase the ability of the businesses to remain competitive in a changing global market.

“We know that having a highly skilled workforce in the advanced manufacturing sector including the construction, mining, defence and food industries, is important for our state’s future economic growth.

“This is particularly important for organisations that are transitioning into high value-add manufacturing of products and services that compete on value for money, not solely on cost.

“Training includes qualifications at Certificate III through to Advanced Diploma level, in areas such as electrotechnology, food processing, manufacturing, resources and infrastructure and business,” she said.

Bertus De Villiers, Vice President Metals Processing at Nyrstar Port Pirie, says the organisation will up-skill 99 workers through skills clusters in electrical competency and mechanical competency.

“This funding will allow us to provide specific additional training to a key area of our business,” Mr De Villiers said.

“Like so many other businesses, we need to have a highly skilled, flexible and productive workforce to remain competitive in a global market.

This additional training will assist us to achieve that critical business objective.”

Ingham Enterprises Group Executive General Manager (SA/WA/NT) Des Hindson says the organisation will train its workers in the Certificate III in Food Processing and the Certificate IV in Competitive Systems and Practices.

“The funding will help us to up-skill 35 of our employees and identify future leaders within our business,” Mr Hindson said.

Media contact: Kate Baldock 0459 241 531

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“It will enable us to safeguard the future of our business through identifying and eliminating waste to ensure sustainability and growth.”

Other funding recipients include:
- CKI Utilities Development
- CRC Care Pty Ltd
- Defence Teaming Centre
- Detmold Packaging
- LAI Industries
- Schneider Electric Australia
- Cavill Power Products
- Farley Riggs
- Food and Beverage Fund SA Inc
- Food South Australia
- Food Tourism and Hospitality Skills Advisory Council
- MA Custance and GD Rubin-Custance
- Orica Australia
- Saxon Energy
- South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy
- Virginia Horticultural Business Development