**Queensland Water Directorate (*qldwater*)** ***e-*flash**

**Information for Water Industry Managers and Practitioners in the Queensland Water Industry**

**(Issue #326 – 11 July 2017)**

**1.   Water Industry Future Leadership Program – extended call for nominations**

**2.   NHMRC Draft Public Statement Water Fluoridation**

**3.   Water NZ calls for a national Operator Certification Scheme**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

1. **Water Industry Future Leadership Program – extended call for nominations**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

***qldwater*** members are invited to submit nominations for the Water Industry Future Leadership Program, a program initiated and supported by the ***qldwater*** Technical Reference Group (note this call was made to ***qldwater*** primary and secondary contacts in June, but there are still places available.  Nominations now close on 21 July).

**The program**

The aim of the Future Leadership Program is to gather current and emerging leaders from across the Queensland urban water sector to discuss future directions for the industry on complex emerging issues. The program will also include opportunities for skills development sessions such as strategic and critical thinking (depending on group preferences). The program is expected to run for approximately 18 months with a number of activities and working group meetings to be held over that period. There is no cost for participating in the program, however the participant’s employer will be expected to cover the costs of travel to meetings and wages.

Further details on the program are provided in the flyer available to download [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=233149).

It is anticipated that the first meeting to scope the terms of reference, topics for discussion and potential skills development activities will be held on the 8th September to coincide with both the ***qldwater*** Annual Forum (on the 6th and 7th) and the TRG meeting on the Friday 8th. Program participants will also receive a complimentary ticket to the AWA Queensland dinner (held on the 8th) to attend as ***qldwater*** guests.

**Eligibility Criteria**

The following eligibility criteria will need to be met by each nominee:

* At least one year in the industry
* At least 5 years of work experience
* Supervisory, middle management or program manager role
* Ability to commit to an 18 month program including some travel (likely to Brisbane but to be determined based on participant locations).

The group will be limited to 12 total participants. If more than 12 nominations are received, a committee will be established to review nominations and may determine further eligibility criteria to refine the nominations.

**Nomination process**

To nominate an employee, please send the following details to skills@qldwater.com.au.

* Nominee name and job title
* A brief outline of the nominees current role and work experience
* Name of the person nominating and job title

Once nominations are confirmed, ***qldwater*** will contact each nominee to discuss the requirements in further detail and the nominee will be able to seek further approvals for participation if necessary, and either confirm or decline the invitation to participate.

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

**2.   NHMRC Draft Public Statement Water Fluoridation**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has released the draft Public Statement 2017: Water fluoridation and human health in Australia for public consultation.

In this statement NHMRC strongly recommends community water fluoridation as a safe, effective and ethical way to help reduce tooth decay across the population. NHMRC supports Australian states and territories fluoridating their drinking water supplies within the range of 0.6 to 1.1 milligrams per litre (mg/L).

The Australian community is invited to provide comments on the draft Public Statement. It is intended for use by policy makers, water providers and members of the public.

The aims of public consultation on the draft Public Statement are to obtain feedback on:

* whether the information is presented in a format and manner that is useful and easy to understand
* whether the boxed ‘NHMRC statement’ (page one) is clearly justified
* options for disseminating the Public Statement once finalised.

Further information including details on how to make a submission are available [here](https://consultations.nhmrc.gov.au/public_consultations/water-fluoridation-health).

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

**3.   Water NZ calls for a national Operator Certification Scheme**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

Further to Eflash # 324 which detailed the Havelock North drinking water incident in 2016 and subsequent inquiry, Water New Zealand has called for an industry-led, and ultimately mandated Operator Certification Scheme.  The consultation paper is available [here](http://www.waternz.org.nz/Attachment?Action=Download&Attachment_id=2380).

“The Havelock North campylobacter outbreak in August 2016 highlighted to industry the importance of ensuring that the systems in place to supply drinking water are robust and effective. The resulting Government Inquiry has raised questions about the training and competence of staff involved in the management, supervision and operation of the water treatment and reticulation system.

It is now evident to many in industry that the absence of an effective system for the training, qualification, competency assessment and continuing professional development of staff is a serious gap in the provision of safe drinking water to many New Zealand communities.

While the Inquiry will eventually make recommendations in this space which may or may not be acted on by Government, it is the responsibility of industry to step up and take a leadership role in this area now. While regulation may or may not follow, we need to implement such a scheme on a voluntary basis as soon as possible.

To that end the Board of Water New Zealand proposes the development of the system of Certification as described in this paper for those involved in the water treatment and wastewater sectors. It is proposed to include managers, supervisors and operators. The extent to which we initiate a system of continuing professional development for those holding water reticulation qualifications has yet to be resolved, but under consideration.”

***qldwater*** has long been an advocate for certification programs.  There were a number of resolutions made at the recent national Water Industry Skills Taskforce meeting of relevance, with more detail to follow in the next Skills e-flash (once relevant documents are available on the WIST web site).  More information on voluntary certification is available at <http://www.wioa.org.au/certification/index.htm>, members are welcome to contact Michelle Hill (mhill@qldwater.com.au) for assistance in coordinating.

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

**This message may be passed on to interested individuals and organisations.**

**To add your name** to the distribution list, email “subscribe” to hgold@qldwater.com.au

**To remove your name** from the distribution list, email “unsubscribe” to hgold@qldwater.com.au

**Visit qldwater at** [**www.qldwater.com.au**](http://www.qldwater.com.au)

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**