**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #52**

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

**(Issue #52 –  27 October 2016)**

1. **Funding to support gap training for Operator Certification - EOI**

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***qldwater*** has secured funding to support a small cohort of operators to attain the competencies required to apply for Certification (either under the national Framework for Operators of Drinking Water Systems 2016 or the STP Operator Certification Framework). The intention of the funding is to address the current restrictions on accessing funding for operators who hold existing Certificate III Water Operations qualifications.

The Department is referring to it as ‘second chance training’ whereby operators can attain the units that they require for Certification under subsidised arrangements. The funding levels are linked to the Certificate 3 Guarantee funding. It will fund gap training for units only (3-7 units), not full qualifications.

A brief overview of the funding is below:

Eligibility:

* Employed by a water utility.
* Hold a current Certificate III Water Operations qualification and be intending to apply for either certification under either the drinking water or STP operator certification program.
* Require training in between 3 to 7 units of competency (from the National Water Training package) to attain Certification.

Funding:

* Linked to Certificate 3 Guarantee funding.
* The current level of funding for a Certificate III Water Industry Treatment under the Queensland Training Subsidies list is $2,912 (for non-concessional students). The pro-rata amount of funding per unit is therefore approximately $265 per unit (based on 11 units of competency in the qualification).

Process:

* Advise ***qldwater*** of the name, date of birth, details of gap training required (unit names and codes) for each participant and the RTO to deliver the training (must be registered as a pre-qualified supplier with DET).
* ***qldwater*** provides this information to the Department of Education and Training (DET).
* DET will make the relevant notes on their internal systems to enable the selected RTOs to claim funding for the training.

The above process must be followed otherwise RTO applications to claim funding for the gap training will not be accepted.

As the funding is limited, we are intending to target a number of regional activities that will derive the best outcomes for industry. There is currently a pilot underway in SEQ for STP Operator Certification and 13 of the places will be allocated to this group. There will be number of remaining places to be allocated and it is intended that these will target drinking water operator certification. Consideration will be given to organisations/regions interested in STP Operator Certification if there are places still available but the intention is to complete the SEQ pilot activities as far as possible to ensure there aren’t further changes to the framework required.

If you are interested in taking part in the activities and utilising the funding please contact ***qldwater*** to advise of numbers and which Certification Framework you are interested in, we will be attempting to coordinate regional training hubs if possible. Final numbers and participant details will need to be confirmed by end-November, so there is a short timeframe involved. Preference will therefore be given to organisations/regions that are able to get organised in that timeframe.

For further information, contact Michelle Hill (mhill@qldwater.com.au).

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