**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #54**

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

**(Issue #54 –  30 January 2017)**

1. ***qldwater* re-engaged to provide water industry training advice to DET**
2. **Changes to Qld User Choice Funding Policy**
3. **Nominations now open for the 2017 Queensland Training Awards**

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**1.  *qldwater* re-engaged to provide water industry training advice to DET**

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***qldwater*** recently received an extension for a small contract to provide water industry advice on vocational education and training-related activities to the Department of Education and Training (DET). ***qldwater*** will continue to act as the conduit between industry and Government and provide relevant advice on water industry VET qualifications and RTOs delivering water training and to communicate to industry information on Government policy and funding programs.

As part of the new contract ***qldwater*** will provide advice on the current Qld VET Investment Plan and it’s responsiveness to water industry skills needs. This will include preparation of a report which covers:

* Appropriateness and responsiveness of the current subsidies
* Barriers to participation in training
* Other potential areas for investment (e.g. skill sets).

If you would like to provide feedback on the VET Investment Plan or insight into the report ***qldwater*** is compiling please contact Michelle Hill on mhill@qldwater.com.au or (07) 3632 6853.

The current VET Investment Plan available on the Department of Education and Training website - <https://training.qld.gov.au/docs-data/strategies/vetinvest>.

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**2.  Changes to Qld User Choice Funding Policy**

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The Department of Education and Training recently made changes to the User Choice Policy which covers subsidy arrangements for Apprenticeships and Traineeships in Queensland. These changes are summarised below:

1. **Changes to the User Choice 2016-17 Policy (section 2.1.1 Prioritisation of funding)**

The changes include updated arrangements for subsidies for existing workers:

* + Existing workers with an active registration number commencement date or recommencement date from 1 January 2017 are eligible for funding when undertaking Priority One, Priority Two or Priority Three qualifications.
	+ Existing workers with an active registration number commencement date or recommencement date up to 31 December 2016, irrespective of whether they belong to a Priority Population Group, are eligible for funding only when undertaking Priority One qualifications.

Visit the full Policy on the DET website for further information - <https://training.qld.gov.au/site/providers/Documents/pqs/become/user-choice-policy-2016-17.pdf>.

1. **Changes to the User Choice 2016-17 Qualification and Price List**

The  Department has increased the amount subsidised for Priority Two and Priority Three qualifications – the new prices take effect from 1 January 2017 and apply to all students enrolled in the applicable qualifications.

You can view the current price list on the DET website here - <https://training.qld.gov.au/providers/funded/userchoice/pricing>.

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**3.  Nominations open for the 2017 Queensland Training Awards**

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Nominations for the 2017 [Queensland Training Awards](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/11660/2cnnhz9/209781/11b505w10.html) are now open.

There are 14 award categories which celebrate achievements of all those involved in vocational education and training (VET), including apprentices, trainees, VET students, teachers and trainers, training providers, community-based organisations and employers.

Nominations close on 31 March 2017. For further information visit the [Queensland Training Awards](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/11660/2cnnhz9/209781/11b505w10.html) webpage.

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