

We need your help!

INTRODUCTION

EXITO is undertaking 3 major research projects this year for the industry sectors:

- Gas
- Precious Mineral & Mining
- Quarrying

The preparation and scoping phase is now complete, and the real research work is about to begin. We are sending you this update because we would like you to participate in the research. Your participation will ensure the project's success!

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the research project is to gather data about your industry sector which will assist EXITO in the provision of industry skills leadership as legislated in the changes to the Industry Training Act 1992.

The research will feed into and drive the development of the Industry Training Plans for each sector. It will ensure that the information in the Industry Training Plans is current and relevant for the needs of each industry, which is a key requirement of the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) investment process, the criteria for which are as follows:

- Using high-quality information about current and future industry skill and training needs to inform Strategic Training Plans
- Engaging with industry, relevant advisory groups and trainees in the development and implementation of Strategic Training Plans
- Building collaborative relationships with tertiary education providers to develop and deliver new or existing higher level qualifications to support the development and implementation of Strategic Training Plans
- Demonstrating strategic skills leadership through sharing information and expertise across a wider range of audiences (eg other ITO's, other Tertiary Education Organisations, TEC and government agencies)

KEY RESEARCH AREAS

The key areas being covered by the research are:

1. Training provision within the industry at national certificate, national diploma and degree level
2. Qualifications within the industry
3. Qualification usage
4. Penetration of training within the industry
5. Likely regional and national provision
6. Demographic make-up
7. Training and skill needs
8. Linkages to Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)
9. Overall satisfaction with EXITO as well as existing training provision.

WHAT ARE WE DOING AND HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO IT

EXITO has engaged an external contractor to do the research work. Performance Matters Ltd has completed several research projects for EXITO in the past, but this year will be a little different because EXITO has access to some new technology and data. Previously, the research was done via a written questionnaire through face-to-face interviews on site. This year however, will be done using an online web-based survey software. This will reduce the time input for the contractor, which will have the added benefit of keeping the cost down for EXITO!

It is really important for us that the information gathered is as accurate and honest as possible, so the research will still be 'anonymous' as it has been in the past. Performance Matters Ltd has a special coding system (more about that later) to ensure that responses can not be traced back to you or your company. Your EXITO Sector Advisory Group (SAG) and Industry Associations have been briefed about the research and had their say about what should be included in the research.

We will be targeting two specific groups within each sector for the research:

- Company Owners and Managers
- Operators and Trainees

If your company is willing to participate in the research, we would be asking you to do the following:

1. Answer some questions over the phone about the job titles used for operational staff in your industry and provide 'headcount' details concerning number of employees. At the same time, discuss with the research contractor how feasible it will be for your operational staff to complete the online survey using your company's computers (or their own computer).
2. If online survey completion is feasible, arrange for operational staff and owners/managers to complete the survey (details for when and how this is to be done will be provided by the research contractor).
3. If online survey completion on company computers by operational staff is not feasible, arrange for the research contractor to survey the operational staff via a different method, which will probably take the form of telephone interviews.
4. Possibly arrange for owner/key managers to be interviewed in more depth by the research contractor (either by phone or face-to-face). Only a small sample of companies will be asked to assist in this way.

WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE RESEARCH RESULTS

The data gathered from the survey will be put together with other industry data and information gathered by Performance Matters Ltd. It will then be analysed in order to give EXITO a good picture of the future education and training requirements for the industry.

The final report will be published in December 2009, and the findings communicated to industry. The research findings will play an important role in the ongoing development of the Sector Industry Training Plans.

THE NEXT STEP

In order to meet the December deadline for publishing the final research report, we are going to have to push this project full steam ahead, so we would be really grateful for your full support and participation in the research project.

A member of Performance Matters Ltd will be in touch with you in the very near future to check that you are happy to take part in the research project, so that we can get the ball rolling.

A huge thanks from us in anticipation!

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