

SCHOLARSHIP FOR ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN MEAT PROCESSING

Project Report Reference: 2017-1083

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Project Description

This project funded scholarships for the Advanced Diploma in Meat Processing. The Advanced Diploma is designed for people who are already employed in the industry and who have the opportunity to draw upon workplace experiences and to carry out assignments and projects in the workplace. The qualification is designed for managers who seek to move into senior positions within their own enterprise. People who enter this qualification will usually have substantial experience in a meat industry sector and will be seeking to improve their business expertise and experience and broader knowledge and understanding of the industry.

Project Content

MINTRAC contracted Response Learning to undertake the delivery and assessment of the Advanced Diploma, a process independent of the scholarship program. MINTRAC and Response assessed the eligibility of the candidates, determined the units to be offered from the preferences indicated on the application form and set the study program. The Advanced Diploma program ran from July 2016 until December 2017.

The availability of scholarships through AMPC was advertised to red meat processors through both AMPC and MINTRAC databases. Applications were received and acknowledged by AMPC and successful applicants were decided by AMPC. AMPC then advised MINTRAC of the successful candidates.

Scholarships were valued at \$6,000 each and were paid in two separate installments - \$3,000 on presentation of completion of the first two units and \$3,000 on proof of completion of the Advanced Diploma of Meat Processing qualification.

To be eligible for a scholarship applicant had to:

- be currently employed by an AMPC member company
- provide proof of acceptance into the Advanced Diploma of Meat Processing program
- provide proof of company support to undertake the program
- provide a separate letter of application addressing the following:
 - Why do you want this scholarship?

- How will this qualification help you in your current role?
- What are your career goals and how does the qualification relate to those goals?
- How will this qualification be beneficial to your company and the meat industry?
- Agree to provide information to support AMPC publicity about the scholarship.

Project Outcome

Seven students were awarded AMPC scholarships, and all have now finished the formal part of the training. This was made up of an outdoor leadership workshop in Kindilan QLD followed by workshops covering the following units:

- AMPMGT601 – Benchmark to manage and improve enterprise performance.
- BSBMT605 – Set strategic plans
- BSBFIM601 – Manage finances
- BSBINN601 – Lead and manage organizational change

In between the workshops participants completed work-based projects. A final leadership workshop was held in December. Students are currently completing their final assessments.

Benefit for Industry

This project benefited the industry through providing access to leadership development to meat processing employees who wanted to move into senior positions and gain broader knowledge and understanding of the industry.

As well as developing new skills and enhancing current knowledge, participants in the Advanced Diploma program built valuable networks within the industry which will assist in making the industry more integrated in the future.

CASE STUDIES

Greg Williams, Group Engineering Manager, Northern Cooperative Meat Company

One of the benefits of the Advanced Diploma program for Greg was the relationships that were built amongst the students. It was a small group but very tight and they were able to use their various experiences to learn from each other. Having some of the lessons on plant was also beneficial as it was helpful to see what others were doing and relate it to what was being covered in the lesson.

Greg felt there was a good range of topics which added to his current knowledge and skills. Some of the units were more beneficial than others, for example after completing the finance unit he can now sit down with the finance guys and follow what they are saying and understand where they are coming from. He didn't feel the benchmarking unit was as good because everyone measures things differently but it was still good to get an understanding of it.

Greg says there were benefits for both his company and the industry. He has definitely built on his skills and been able to bring along other people on the journey with him, instead of just shoving information at them he can work through the process with them. He feels he can also contribute more as a member of the AMPC Technical PAC and the ongoing networking with the other members of the group helps make industry more integrated which can only be beneficial.

Matthew Beattie, Business Analyst, Teys Tamworth

Matthew feels the Advanced Diploma was a really good program for both developing skills and networking. It mainly reinforced what he already knew but he has been able to apply what he learnt to his role, for example he is using what he learnt in the last workshop on a current project.

Matthew thinks the program benefits industry by helping to build networks between people on different plants. Everyone in the group could relate what they were doing on the course to their roles and plants and use that knowledge to help and learn from each other. Building these types of relationships are important he believes as everyone working together benefits the whole industry.

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