

# 01

# Information Bulletin

## Productivity Places Program

**This bulletin has been produced with the assistance of funding provided by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations**

As part of its Skilling Australia for the future initiative, the Australian Government has recognised the importance of nationally endorsed training in assisting jobseekers to acquire skills and gain lasting employment and assisting existing workers to update or upgrade their skills.

The government has allocated 630,000 training places over five years (in addition to existing places funded via each state training authority) to ensure that Australians develop the skills that industry needs. The new demand driven approach is designed to better match up training to the needs of industry - providing businesses with some assistance for skill shortages.

Combined with new targets to halve the proportion of Australians aged 24 to 64 years without qualifications and double the number of higher qualification completions (diploma and advanced diploma) by 2020, the Productivity Places Program (PPP) is part of the Federal Government's commitment for better jobs for working Australians.

### So what is the productivity places program?

- the program is a new way for jobseekers and existing workers to improve their skills to find employment
- the program provides new training places in skills employers want and is designed for jobseekers to secure employment and will help current employees upgrade their skills
- the training will be delivered by registered training organisations (RTOs)
- jobseekers and existing workers can gain a new or upgrade an existing qualification.

### ForestWorks role within the PPP will be to:

- provide industry advice to Skills Australia, government and enterprises on workforce development and skills needs
- actively support the development, implementation and continuous improvement of high quality training and workforce development products and services including training packages (national skill standards and qualifications)
- provide independent skills and training advice to industry and enterprises,
- work with enterprises, RTOs and training providers to ensure that individual and enterprise training needs are matched to appropriate training.

### What does the PPP mean for enterprises?

ForestWorks is proposing to assist enterprises to determine skill development needs. If you have skill shortages, this program will help you. It provides government funding to support the training you need – and based on the national qualifications for our industry.

To access this funding, we recommend you consult with your registered training organisation. They will be able to help you develop a training needs analysis for your organisation.

The forest, wood, paper and timber products industry has to compete with other industry sectors across Australia for funding for training places. This means we need to need to demonstrate there are skill shortages within our industry.



559A Queensberry Street  
NORTH MELBOURNE, VIC 3051  
ph: 03 9321 3500  
fax: 03 9326 7800  
forestworks@forestworks.com.au  
www.forestworks.com.au

ForestWorks, from advice and research with industry has identified the following occupations as shortages:

#### Forest growing and management

- workers for plantation establishment and maintenance activities
- longer term employees for ongoing management of maintenance activities
- cultivators

#### Harvesting and haulage

- truck drivers
- forest harvesters
- mobile equipment operators, in particular mechanical harvester operators
- supervisors of forestry and logging workers

#### Sawmilling and processing

- wood machinists (trade)
- saw doctors (trade) and saw operators
- trades e.g. electricians, fitters and machinists, boiler attendants
- production technicians
- timber co-ordinators and managers
- logistics and transport officers
- maintenance engineers
- timber graders
- timber production operators.

#### Timber product manufacturing

- estimators and detailers
- truss fabricators
- saw operators
- press operators
- sales representatives
- supervisors.

#### Timber merchandising

- timber product advisors
- timber product managers
- mobile equipment operators
- logistics and transport officers
- sales people with product knowledge

#### Wood panel and board production

- electricians and maintenance fitters
- production operators
- panel and board production technicians
- engineered timber products technicians.

#### Pulp and paper manufacturing

- generic trades such as electricians and maintenance fitters
- instrument fitting

If there are other skill shortage occupations NOT on this list, please advise us.

ForestWorks has also developed an online 'post a job ad' tool that will help address this need. This online tool will be used as part of our demonstration to government that there are a large number of shortages within our industry. [You can post your job ads here](#). To find your local registered training organisation [please go here](#).

### What does the PPP mean if you are an existing employee?

From January 1st 2009 training places will be available for existing workers. If you are interested in getting training to meet a skills shortage or a skills gap in your workplace, take this information to your supervisor to discuss.

### What does the PPP mean for Training Providers?

Approved organisations wishing to participate in the program can access the system to lodge their submissions here - [access PIMS](#)

Before making a submission, RTOs should familiarise themselves with the Request to Participate documentation for Phase 2 of the program, Draft Program Guidelines, Draft Contract and Priority Occupations List and eligible qualifications (see right).

RTOs wishing to make submissions should note the following:

1. The contract period for phase two under the Program is from 1 July to 31 December 2008. Enrolments and training under the program started to be delivered from 1 July 2008, and only once an RTO has been assessed and contracted by the department.
2. The Priority Occupations List has been expanded to take into account the higher level qualifications under phase two from Certificate IV to Diploma level.

## Resources for RTOs

- [Request to participate](#)
- [Draft program guidelines](#)
- [Draft contract](#)
- [Priority occupations list with eligible qualifications](#)

## General Information

- [Productivity Places Program Factsheet](#)
- For more general information regarding PPP please [click here](#).

