



EMICoL

Enriching commercial capabilities

update



From the Chairman

March Sundowner 2009

In March EMICoL ran its first networking event of 2009, kindly supported by Enterprise Connect

a Federal Government Industry initiative. It was well attended by over 50 people from Industry, Education, Training, and Local and Federal Government agencies. The evening was an opportunity to share common issues, concerns and successes. Attendees were exposed to the variety of opportunities which are currently available through Enterprise Connect, EMICoL, Swan TAFE, The Traineeship and Apprenticeship Company, and Cambridge Insurance Brokers.

The evening highlighted how our Sponsors, Partners and Members are great and growing, as more people realize the benefits that we are creating through EMICoL. The focus of EMICoL is to address our Industry sector needs and be proactive rather than reactive.

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” Barak Obama

We look forward to seeing you at the next event.

Peter Hill
Chairman

Photos: Members and guests at the Sundowner, proudly supported by Enterprise Connect



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Next Members' Sundowner will be held in June. Invitations will be sent out soon.





Australian Government

Government working on skills training package

The federal government is consulting employers, unions and educators on ways to help apprentices finish their training if they lose their jobs.

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Minister Julia Gillard said a jobs and training package would be the main item on the agenda of the next Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting, expected next month.

But Ms Gillard would not confirm reports that the government was developing a \$1 billion package to subsidise apprentice wages by up to a third if they are threatened with losing their jobs.

She said the government would do all it could to ensure skills training remained available as unemployment rises.

"The government's made it clear that we are working on further measures to support jobs," Ms Gillard said on Tuesday.

"We're obviously talking to employers, to unions, to apprentices, to people who employ apprentices, to education providers about the best way of supporting people to keep jobs and if they lose their job."

Ms Gillard said the states and territories were also part of the consultation in the wake of the \$42 billion economic stimulus package announced earlier this month and passed by parliament last week.

The government is also expected to announce in the next few weeks some major infrastructure projects earmarked for approval by Infrastructure Australia aimed at supporting jobs.

"What we know from past economic downturns is that people down tools on training only to find when the economy improves they're then crying out for skilled labour," Ms Gillard said.

"We'll be doing everything we can to break that cycle and to make sure that training efforts are there, even in these difficult days with the global financial crisis."



EMICoL workshops get the green light from Enterprise Connect

John Morris

We are pleased to announce EMICoL's application for the Enterprise Connect Manufacturing Centre Workshops has been assessed and was successful.

The funds will help and assist EMICoL members by providing the tools, ideas and specific interventions to enable them to manage their way through the GFC (Global Financial Crisis).

EMICoL will now create, organise and deliver a half day workshop to its members, focussing on three key areas of;

1. How to manage their finances more effectively with particular emphasis on cash and securing alternative financing methods
2. How to present their business to existing and new customers to secure more business
3. How to review productivity and cost processes, structures and systems to make their business more efficient and therefore more cost competitive

The ideas for these topics arose out of a survey of the EMICoL members and their needs at this time.

Each of these topics will be presented by a subject matter expert in a one hour presentation during the workshop.

It is expected that the workshop will have at least 25 participants - predominately EMICoL members.

The aim and objectives is to create an interactive and informative workshop, delivered by some of the best subject matter experts, so that EMICoL members will take away new ideas and concepts that can be implemented immediately, and will have an immediate impact on the performance of their enterprise.

Thanks to all members for their input on our successful application





State Government financial help to keep apprentices working

Peter Collier, Minister for Energy; Training



Group Training Organisations (GTOs) which take on apprentices who lose their jobs during the economic downturn would be eligible for payments of up to \$1,800 from the State Government.

Training Minister Peter Collier said today that the Government's initiative was designed to ensure that Western Australia had skilled workers to meet future demands.

"This State Government payment, when combined with \$1,800 from the Federal Government's Securing Apprenticeships initiative, will mean that the majority of an out-of-trade apprentice's wages will be covered for up to 12 weeks," Mr Collier said.

"In addition, there is a special \$1,000 completion payment from the Federal Government.

"It is imperative that we continue training apprentices because the economic downturn won't last forever and we don't want to face future shortages of skilled workers."

The Minister said State Government funding would be provided to GTOs to place apprentices who had lost their jobs with a new host employer, allowing them to complete their training and obtain a trade certificate.

He said the initiative would start on May 1, 2009 and be reassessed at the end of the 2009-10 financial year.

To be eligible, apprentices needed to have completed half of their apprenticeship and all of their off-the-job training.

Apprenticeships also needed to be included on the National Skills Needs list.

"GTOs must have the capacity to engage apprentices and place them in a suitable workplace so they are able to complete the final on-the-job training and assessment to meet industry standards," Mr Collier said.

The State Government initiative has been welcomed by Group Training Australia (Western Australia) chairman Stan Liaros, who said this would go a long way to ensuring that out-of-trade apprentices completed their training.

"It would be a shame if these apprentices were denied the opportunity to become qualified skilled workers when they are just short of completing their training," Mr Liaros said.

The Department of Education and Training's ApprentiCentre provided further support for employers and apprentices through its jobs board, on which employers can lodge apprenticeship vacancies.

More than 2,400 jobs have been lodged since the jobs board was established in March 2008. Currently, there are 132 apprenticeship vacancies.

ApprentiCentre also maintained a list of out-of-trade apprentices, which is used by employers looking to take on a partly-trained apprentice.

Minister's office - 9213 7150

Cambridge Insurance Brokers

Antonella Segre

Cambridge Insurance Brokers, was approached by the Directors of EMICoL to look at an insurance package, exclusively for it's members, which would offer the best product with great savings and attention to service delivery. The Company has a successful record of working with Cooperatives.

Cambridge Insurance Brokers together with a short list of insurers feel confident that the desired result will be met, that will provide the required benefits to existing and potential EMICoL members.

However, we are in need of your support. Recently an email was circulated from Peter Hill, Chairman, and Darren Thompson Managing Director of Cambridge Insurance Brokers which needed to be signed off by our existing members. This is the final necessary step which will allow the package to be finalized and offered out. If you have not received this email kindly contact Peter Hill on pghill@inet.net.au



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