



National Meat Industry
Training Advisory Council Limited
MINTRAC Scholarship Program

E M P L O Y E E U P S K I L L I N G S C H O L A R S H I P

Angela Flett

MINTRAC Employee upskilling scholarship 2005–2006

Human Resources Manager to General Manager

CRF (Colac Otway) Pty Ltd

Qualification: Masters of Business Administration

Tertiary Institution: Deakin University

The scholarship

After completing a Graduate Diploma of Human Resources in December 2004, I decided that it would be beneficial to continue studying. I wanted to gain a much broader understanding of different business functions, so enrolled in a Masters in Business Administration (MBA), off-campus with Deakin University in Geelong. I was granted a MINTRAC Upskilling scholarship in March 2005 which has greatly assisted me financially (MBA's are definitely not cheap), and has allowed me to complete a number of units through residential workshops. A residential is a week long workshop held on campus. A group of up to 60 students stay on campus in Geelong and learn about one unit of the MBA, for example, strategic management. I found the residentials to be very worthwhile and completed four in total.

Personal benefits of the study

Even through off-campus studies I was able to develop great networks. I now have a very solid list of contacts in a variety of industries. It was great meeting people and learning about their roles and organisations.

My writing skills have vastly improved throughout my studies. This is mainly due to the number of assignments I was required to submit, the assistance I received from my manager at CRF, and working with other students to write group assignments.

My self confidence, including public speaking and presentation skills, has also improved since undertaking the MBA. The residentials required a number of presentations to be made.

Benefits to your company

I now have a much broader understanding of business which helps me in my role as a Manager at CRF. I now have greater input and knowledge into areas outside of my department. I am also able to implement the new processes and innovative ideas that I gained through the MBA.

Benefits to the industry

The insight I have into other industries and innovative ideas has enabled me to assist with projects in the meat industry. I have up-to-date information and can input into meat industry initiatives such as recruitment and retention project, knife sharpening testing project, training pilot programs.

Future plans

I have recently been appointed as the Manager of a new business arm of CRF in Colac, still involved with the Meat Industry. This new role will provide enormous challenges but will also allow me to use more of the skills I developed through my studies.

Suggestions

I think that the current scholarship program works very well. The support and follow-up that MINTRAC provides is excellent. The program is well publicised. The workshops provided to assist students with their studies help to ensure successful outcomes.

I presented at this year's national training conference, *Setting new horizons* with eight other students. I got a lot out of listening to the other student's presentations. I think these presentations should continue in the future as they are a very good way for organisations in the meat industry to see the benefits that individuals and their companies gain from being involved in upskilling studies.

Thank you MINTRAC for this wonderful opportunity.



Angela Flett



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