



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

Jonathon Potter

MINTRAC Employee upskilling scholarship 2005

Project Manager to Plant Manager

WAMMCO International Exports

Qualification: Advanced Diploma of Project Management

Tertiary Institution: APMM Group

The scholarship

MINTRAC has provided me with an opportunity to undertake further education which I otherwise would not have undertaken by encouraging me to continue my studies and providing funding. MINTRAC helped in organising and sourcing suitable nationally recognised courses for me and has provided me with assistance when required.

Personal benefits of the study

This course gave me the knowledge I needed to improve myself in order to do the best I could in the position I was in. It has also provided my company with a skills base it previously did not have.

I have been able to progress through a series of career goals I set for myself that revolved around training and putting the skills I learnt immediately to use.

Prior to applying for this scholarship, I undertook the Diploma and Advanced Diploma of Meat Processing which was also funded through MINTRAC. This training has resulted in many job offers around Australia and overseas. The most recent offer – plant manager of an export listed abattoir, I accepted. This has been my career goal since I became serious about training and what it could do for my career.

Benefits to your company

WAMMCO has benefited from my training in a number of ways. From the knowledge and skills gained from the Advanced Diploma of Project Management I have been able to provide detailed feasibility studies which help make informed decisions on opportunities and all technical skills required to run a project effectively. If I did not have the skills to undertake the feasibility studies, they would need to be outsourced at a very high price. In this respect, the training has paid for itself many times over already.

Benefits to the meat industry

There are a number of benefits to the meat industry of this scholarship, including the following:

I now have skills that can be used to run and execute projects effectively for any meat processing company I work for. The skills and knowledge I have gained, I can pass onto others in the industry. I can offer recommendations for training in the area of project management. My skills can be used across a broad range of areas in the meat industry.

The future

I was able to use the training immediately during my role as Project Manager (a new position at WAMMCO International). Prior to my course, this was an area no one new to much about, so I had to learn what to do.

I was able put the knowledge and skills from every unit I completed into practice straight away. This was great from the perspective of working and training.

The Advanced Diploma of Project Management qualification was extremely useful in my previous role as Project Manager but also in the longer term. This qualification will ensure I become a well rounded Plant Manager who has knowledge and skills across a broad range of areas in the business.

I strongly believe in being critical on myself about what I know and what I don't. I have conducted a training needs analysis bearing this in mind and have decided to participate in the Meat Industry Leadership Program and complete the remaining two units of my Advance Diploma of Meat Processing. I would then like to undertake Diplomas in Procurement and Maintenance Management, some of which were covered in the Advance Diploma of Project Management. This will ensure I improve my understanding of areas in meat processing I am still unfamiliar with and help me become a better Plant Manager.

My ultimate goal is to be the best I can be at what ever I do to benefit the company I work for. Training will help me reach this achievable goal.

Suggestions

I would like MINTRAC to spend more time with potential scholarship holders, either via meetings or phone conversations, to discuss career pathways and ways to utilise training effectively. Plants should also hold meetings to discuss scholarship opportunities and career pathways.



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