



National Workforce Development Fund (NWDF)

Through competitive application, this recently announced national fund assists business access training to improve productivity and their bottom line.

Businesses in the tourism, travel, tours, guiding, meetings and events, accommodation, restaurants and catering, retail and wholesale, sport, fitness, community recreation, outdoor recreation, caravans, hairdressing, beauty, floristry and community pharmacy have the opportunity to access these funds through Service Skills Australia to improve business performance.

Business can nominate qualifications from Certificate 3 to Advanced Diploma (and in some cases nominate recognised 'skill sets'). Business can nominate their preferred registered training partner or partners. And business can negotiate price for the training services to be delivered. Business owners and employees can apply for these funds.

Business will be required to contribute to the agreed cost of training, with a one third contribution required from businesses employing < 100 employees with government contributing the balance. Contributions increase for larger businesses.

Goal: To support workforce development and planning at the enterprise level

Service Skills approach:

To maximise the value from these funds, three key questions are to be addressed:

- What is the identified business / enterprise need?
- How will the 'qualification' and/or 'skill set' address the identified need?
- How will the business measure the effectiveness / impact in the business?

Businesses can apply directly to Service Skills Australia or could apply under an umbrella project as part of an association, chamber etc.

Service Skills Australia is a not-for-profit, independent organisation supporting skills development across three key industry sectors: Retail, Wholesale and Personal Services; Tourism and Hospitality and the Sport and Recreation industries.

Service Skills can assist with preparation of an application and with finding a training partner.

I would encourage you to consider applying for these highly subsidised places if you are an enterprise or business / industry association. Training organisations are encouraged to work with the enterprise to prepare an application.

Enquires can be directed to Bernard Moore at (E) bmoore@serviceskills.com.au or (M) 0433 244 638 at Service Skills Australia.