

IMPACT Make Your Mark

NEWSLETTER



Work for the Dole

AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

**Issue No. 2
December 2006**

Welcome to our final Community Work Coordinator (Work for the Dole) Newsletter for 2006. We've had an exciting and hectic 7 months gearing up to deliver our services under a revamped and improved Dept of Employment & Workplace Relations Contract. After 5 months of "on the ground" operations we're starting to feel that we have just about got a handle on all the elements of this Contract. We are seeing tangible benefits for our participants & sponsors/hosts through improved communications & more streamlined systems. If sponsors or hosts have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sue & Emma – IMPACT's Work for the Dole Team

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☺ **Professional Development opportunity for Sponsors, Hosts & their Supervisors**
- ☺ **Skills in Demand, Timesheets & Improved Reporting Systems**
- ☺ **What great news – participants find employment**

SPOTLIGHT ON.....

"Operation Overhaul"

More about our Programs & Services at www.impact.org.au

☺ SPOTLIGHT ON: Work for the Dole completes Life Saving Club improvements

For the last 6 weeks, Work for the Dole participants have been very busy working at Neilson Park Life Saving Club.

Work for the Dole participants have:

- built a timber retaining wall
- installed timber railing
- landscaped and laid 192 square meters of turf
- poured a concrete ramp

With the assistance of the Green Corps team they have also put in timber ramps.

With two weeks to go they are currently constructing a step/seating area. This area will be finished in time for the upcoming surf carnival.

Future projects for the crew will include:

- completion of painting the upstairs area of Kenalwyn House
- Painting and maintenance at Drynion Park Tennis courts

Not only are the participants given hands on experience in construction, they are also assisted in the many different aspects of seeking employment and preparing to enter or re-enter the workforce.

If you know of anyone interested in participating in Work for the Dole phone Sue or Emma on 4153 4233



Right: Building of retaining wall

Left: pouring the concrete ramp

The Work for the Dole Programme is an Australian Government Initiative

☺ **An opportunity for sponsors, hosts & their staff to participate in a FREE professional development workshop**

A number of our sponsors & hosts may have participated in a very successful Mentoring Workshop delivered in July of this year. The workshop was well received with comments from participants such as:

- 'Fantastic subject material'
- 'Information was very relevant'



IMPACT believes that the support provided to participants by supervisors during their Work for the Dole work experience is vital to the participant's success in sourcing future employment. Great supervision also has a major impact on helping participants' to develop confidence, motivation, communication skills and a range of relevant workplace skills that will lead them into employment.

IMPACT continues to support our sponsors & hosts by providing quality professional development opportunities and extends an invitation to our next **MENTORING WORKSHOP**

Where **IMPACT Make Your Mark, 106-108 Barga Road, Bundaberg**
When **Tuesday 13th February 2007**
Time **1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (afternoon tea included)**
Places limited **Phone Sue or Emma on 4153 4233 to book a place (maximum of 2 places per organisation)**

☺ **Important Information for Hosts/Sponsors & their supervisors**

Skills in Demand

A reminder that participants undertaking Work for the Dole work experience must be spending a minimum of 20% of their activity undertaking the "Skills in Demand" activities identified in your original Activity Application. This is a new component of the Work for the Dole Contract and IMPACT will be discussing this aspect with each sponsor/host during our Monitoring Visits. We are required to ensure that this aspect of the activity is delivered on-site to all Work for the Dole participants.

NEW Timesheets

Sponsors & Hosts need to ensure they are using the most current version of IMPACT's Work for the Dole Timesheets. We are currently still receiving the old timesheets which **don't list Skills in Demand**.

Could you please destroy any supplies of old timesheets – the latest version of the timesheet has a "tick box" where your supervisor confirms the Skills in Demand areas that the participant has been involved in during that particular week. If you cannot locate the most recent timesheet please call Sue or Emma on 4153 4233 and they will gladly send you the latest version.

Implementing this new version of the timesheet is one strategy IMPACT is using to prove to DEWR that your activity is meeting the Skills in Demand identified in your original Activity Application.

The new timesheet is also a good tool to let us know if the participant is conscientious, hard-working, reliable, etc.

Improved reporting system

Improved participation reporting system means that participants who aren't attending their work experience placement, and who do not have a valid reason, are having breaches applied much faster than before. This is due to a Centrelink team located in Brisbane who are dedicated to actioning the Participation Reports that we generate when a participant is not meeting their mutual obligation requirements.

☺ **What great news!!!**

CONGRATULATIONS Eric & Damien

Eric Crosbie wasn't exactly keen to sign up for Work for the Dole on 14 November 2006. I remember him telling me that he was going to look for work so that he didn't have to do Work for the Dole. Eric was placed on a construction based activity & made a very good first impression with his supervisor by being reliable, turning up on time & putting in a hard days work. The construction supervisor heard of a company that were looking for a casual worker through his contacts in the construction industry. The first person that came to mind was Eric. The supervisor put in a good word for Eric & advised him to phone the company if he was interested in a job. Eric phoned, had an interview & started work with them on 27 November 2006. He is now in his second week of employment & says he is enjoying the job. This employment has encouraged Eric to source transport so he can get to work which he has managed to do successfully by asking family, friends & IMPACT for any assistance that could be offered.

Well done Eric!



Damien Hair-Gatley started his work experience out at the Burnett Heads State School doing grounds maintenance. He then transferred to Operation Overhaul (construction activity). Brett Anderson, IMPACT's supervisor in Operation Overhaul, got to know Damien and was impressed by his potential and his hard work. Brett stood as a referee for him at an interview to participate in the "Commonwealth Apprenticeship Access Program" delivered by IMPACT which focuses on supporting people into employment within the construction industry. The particular emphasis of this program is to source and support participants into apprenticeship & traineeship opportunities. Damien was successful in gaining a place in this program where he continues to develop his skills & make a positive step towards gaining employment

Well done Damien!



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If you would like more information on any of the articles in the newsletter or on the Work for the Dole Program, please contact Sue or Emma at IMPACT Make Your Mark.

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