

room to

IMPROVE

information for those serious about improving manufacturing

January 2010

produced by The Improve Group, Australasia's leading productivity improvement provider

Enterprise Based

Productivity places Program (EBPPP)

The EBPPP provides an exciting opportunity for enterprises to access funding of up to 90% per qualification for existing workers.

Training will be provided by an appropriate Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and will be at Certificate III to Advanced Diploma Level.

Qualifications to be included for funding are those on the Priority Occupations PPP List (POPPPL), consistent with the long-term policy to up-skill the Australian workforce.

The program is a partnership between Manufacturing Skills Australia (MSA) and the Australian Government.

The government will fund the cost of training as follows:

- 50% of the cost for enterprises with 200+ employees
- 75% of the cost for enterprises with between 100 and 199 employees
- 90% of the cost for enterprises with less than 100 employees

The remaining portion of the cost of the training program must be paid by the enterprise to the RTO.

Training must commence in 2010.

Applications

Application forms are available from the MSA website www.msaskills.com.au and must be submitted by close of business, 16 April 2010. Contact (02) 9955 5500 or info@msaskills.com.au for further details.



Takt Time

The rate at which product must be produced determined by actual available capacity and planned volume outputs. Used to determine resource bottlenecks as part of value stream mapping.

NEW online RPL system coming
Click here to register your interest

Fast track your CM Qualifications

The Improve Group is proud to introduce its new **ONLINE RPL SYSTEM** ideal for people already experienced in Lean Manufacturing, Six Sigma and TPM programs

In March 2010 The Improve Group will introduce an online Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) and Recognition for Current Competency (RCC) system.

This system will allow you to complete a full or partial qualification using your existing skills and experience as evidence. An analysis is provided identifying any areas that need gap training in conjunction with our online cyber-coaching team.

Upon completion of the units you will be issued with one of the following qualifications – Certificate II, III or IV in Competitive Manufacturing, Diploma or Advanced Diploma of Competitive Manufacturing



The Improve Group welcomes...

Philip Preston - Brisbane
Manufacturing Excellence Coach

Andy Pullin - Brisbane
Manufacturing Excellence Coach

Dave Rondon - Whakatane
Manufacturing Excellence Coach

John Simpson - Auckland
Manufacturing Excellence Coach

*Congratulations to the following groups who have **recented completed** their Certificate IV in Competitive Manufacturing program:*

- CJ Nutracon, Toowoomba, QLD
- Food Spectrum, Brisbane, QLD (delivered on behalf of SkillsTech)

*Good luck to the following groups who have **recently commenced** CM programs with us:*

- Wide Bay Cabinet Makers, QLD
- Russell Mineral Equipment, QLD
- ACME Furniture, QLD
- Megatoy, QLD
- Integria Healthcare, NSW & QLD
- BGC Plasterboard, WA
- George Grant Engineering, NZ
- Huhtamaki, NZ
- Silverfern Farms, NZ
- Patience & Nicholson, NZ
- Metso Minerals, NZ

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Across the Tasman...

Article by **Chris Benn**, manufacturing excellence coach, Christchurch NZ

One way to introduce the concepts of Lean to an organisation or group is to demonstrate it in action. Obviously this is difficult when you have to find a lean functioning factory or business then organise the logistics of getting people there at the right times etc.

An easier way was devised sometime ago. It involves delivering a 'simulation of lean' and this can happen anywhere, a training room, a boardroom, meeting room, even cafeterias have been used! Improve Group conducts a four hour lean simulation that gets all participants involved in what looks like to most - 'just like our place'

We simulate a manufacturing or production environment as realistically as possible that demonstrates the 8 wastes in action (Defects, Overproduction, Waiting, Non-effective use of resources, Transportation, Inventory, Motion and Excessive processing).

We then show the participants how all these wastes can be reduced or removed entirely from a process and they are nearly always 'blown away' by what a true lean production system can do!

On top of all this it's the most fun anyone can get on a course and the feedback is always great, we know it's a winner because there is a constant demand for us to run the game.

Some of the feedback has been:

"Thanks for the great workshop the other week. I really enjoyed the way it was very interactive and informative."

Kelly Balloch – Development West Coast

"The workshop was interactive and clearly demonstrated the skills involved and benefits to be gained from introducing Lean Manufacturing to the workplace."

Michaela Blacklock
Canterbury Development Corporation

"I really enjoyed your course and the Lego part was excellent."

Glenn Morgan – Patience and Nicholson

"Thanks for all your efforts last week. Enjoyable and learning - great."

Peter Chipperfield – Pernod Ricard

[Click here to book your own in-house Lean Simulation](#)



JAPAN: the Birthplace of Lean

The Improve Group are excited to bring to you what could be an exclusive, once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Japan, the birthplace of Lean.

This year's June tour will provide a unique chance to visit some of the world leaders in Lean Manufacturing. These visits, to companies such as Toyota, Nissan and Canon, will give you exclusive behind the scenes access to management and obtain full access to "Best In Class" management principles.

You will also have the opportunity to interact with the world's best trained workers on the shop floor, to see Lean in action. Experienced tour guides, interpreters and professors will be on hand to make your learning experience truly revolutionary.

"Since returning from Japan we have implemented new problem solving techniques and our leadership and management style has changed. Our operators are included in the decision making process as such have taken ownership of their jobs. They are much happier meaning staff turnover is greatly reduced."

The Lean Study Tour to Japan was a fantastic experience for us and we learnt so much. We're even looking to send 2 more of our team".

Julie Williams, [AgSolutions](#), Gympie

[Click here for further information](#)



Preparing for a 5S Event

5S is the basic housekeeping for lean manufacturing, quality and safety.

Several steps are included in the **5S** process

1. **SORT** - remove unnecessary items, only what is needed when it is needed
2. **SET in ORDER** - a place for everything and everything in its place
3. **SHINE** - are you "tour ready"? Clean and clear work areas highlight problems
4. **STANDARDISE** - make best practice, common practice
5. **SUSTAIN** - keep improving, your competition is

5S is considered to be a starting point for any "Lean" implementation. It combines teamwork with real results that can be seen in the workplace.

5S also reduces retrieval distances and time and workplace risk. Workflows within an area will also improve.

Plan to begin with a small work area for your first **5S** project and select the staff members who will be part of the implementation team.

Before you start take some photos of the work area.

Communicate to your team what **5S** is and why it is important.

Complete a **5S** Assessment and Sort activity in a demonstration area with your implementation team.

Start thinking about where the remaining items should go.

Use an action plan to allocate tasks to particular team members, remembering to include the date when each task is required to be completed. An "event leader" should be appointed and be responsible for ensuring tasks are completed.

Take photos when you've finished so you can compare "before" and "after".

The Improve Group specialises in conducting **5S** events - if you want assistance accelerating your lean implementation phone 07 3488 2143.