

## IXC delivers regional skills collaboration

### Issue

The Victorian Government recognises that engagement between industry and vocational training providers will result in better workforce skill development and utilisation. However there is a need to capture the “unheard” voice of industry and find practical, flexible collaborations to meet local needs within a national skills framework.

### Approach

Skills Victoria appointed IXC to assist the Gippsland Regional Skills Forum (GRSF) develop a **Skills Action Plan**, through engaging local employers, training providers and community leaders.

To start with, IXC worked with regional executive leadership to design and execute an information gathering approach addressing nearly 40 industry and education provider groups throughout Gippsland. The interviews were designed to capture current and future training requirements including unmet needs, service delivery shortcomings, and the willingness to engage with other industry and education providers to strengthen existing training or develop new programs.

IXC analysed this information and placed it in the context of government policy and recent research within a discussion paper which was presented to the GRSF.

The paper also contained collaborative action points identified by IXC that held potential to deliver constructive outcomes for the stakeholders.

With endorsement by the GRSF, IXC then facilitated relevant introductions, to assist them to appreciate the basis of the action point and assume responsibility for its delivery.

*The InnovationXchange's Intermediary service played an integral role in identifying new options for the development of industry skills in collaboration with vocational training providers.*

### Outcomes

As at mid 2010, joint funding agreements between state and local government are being finalised for development of elements identified in the Skills Action Plan.

A key action underway is a proposal to enhance Process Operator skills across energy, paper, water and food processing industries, involving all significant employers in the Gippsland region.

In the course of an IXC-coordinated meeting an assembled group of senior managers quickly established there that there were common skills and capabilities across industries which could provide a framework for a qualification and also cater to the specific skill needs of each industry. A proposal for resources to develop this locally based training program is now in train.

### Result

This project has demonstrated that the IXC Intermediary process is an ideal way to create engagement between stakeholders. IXC can identify and facilitate new collaborative initiatives for addressing inter-party development requirements.

Contact us at IXC to find out more.