



## **Food Safety Supervisor Training Network**

Service Skills Victoria (SSV), as part of a project funded by Reframing the Future, ran a series of workshops during 2006 to provide input and feedback to improve the quality of Food Safety training and assessment in Victoria. The main areas of focus were hospitality, retail and food processing industries and attendance was drawn from related industry, registered training organisations, TAFE (both rural and metro), Department of Human Services (DHS) and curriculum maintenance managers across the three training packages.

### **The project aim:**

To establish an industry training network, to link up key stakeholders involved in food safety supervisor training across three training packages (THH02 Hospitality, WRR02 Retail and FDF03 Food processing).

### **The project objectives:**

- Improve the capacity of cross-industry training;
- Improve the validation of assessment strategies in consultation with industry;
- Develop and share cross-industry stakeholder intelligence.

### **Background:**

The network initially focused on demand from industry and regulators to convert food safety supervisor training to good practice within the workplace. Studies had been undertaken to determine the skill and knowledge of the workforce in relation to food hygiene and it had been identified by DHS that there was good theoretical knowledge of food safety issues but the translation of this into actual hygiene practices in the workplace was inadequate.

The guest speakers at the workshops provided hands-on information, knowledge and insight which provided the basis for participants to engage in open discussion and exchange of experiences. The speakers were:

1. Jodie Eden-Jones, the Food Safety Project Officer at DHS who had managed the project evaluating the Food Safety Supervisor requirement in 2005.
2. Ken Frazer from TAFE NSW who (at the time) managed the course and resource development of the food processing areas for TAFE Institutes, and had facilitated in the past assessment validation workshops for the Victorian Food Industry Training Board.

3. Kaylene Hodgkin from Banyule City Council who provided an understanding of how the current training impacts on the regulatory system and the role of local government in this process.

This series of meetings provided an interactive forum for discussing all the issues affecting the delivery of these units. The major achievements were:

- The collaboration between industry and RTOs both public and private where a range of information and experiences were exchanged.
- The commencement of a list of food safety supervisor and food handling resources including workbooks, texts, CD and videos to which the group will add throughout 2007 and place on the Service Skills Victoria website.
- Strategic outcomes (see below) that will provide the structure for next years meetings and an ongoing network. Dates have been put in place for next year and the network participants have volunteered to provide a venue on a rotational basis.

## **Final Outcomes**

### **1. To develop strategies and implementation to improve consistency of:**

1.1 Advice from councils to business throughout Victoria

Action: Department of Human Services

1.2 Delivery and assessment by Registered Training Organisations

Action: Strategic audit by OTTE across Food Safety RTO's

### **2. Sustain the network to discuss issues:**

2.1 First meeting planned early March 2007 at Swinburne Campus Lilydale.

2.2 Models of sustainability

Action: Service Skills Victoria and the network.

### **3. Professional Development:**

3.1 Via the network, DHS forum, AIFST (Australian Institute of Food & Science Technology) conference in 2007, Environmental Health Officers, and other relevant industry bodies.

3.2 List relevant and up to date resources on the SSV website. To highlight those resources which are regarded as best practice.

Action: Service Skills Victoria and the network.

### **4. Recognition of Prior Learning:**

4.1 First agenda item for Food Safety Network Meeting in early 2007.

Action: Service Skills Victoria to report back from the Reframing the Conference held Sydney November 2006.

### **5. Communication between Stakeholders:**

- Business
- Registered Training Organisations
- Environmental Health Officers
- Department of Human Services
- Office of Training and Tertiary Education

Action: The network to develop simple and clear advice in a frequently asked question format.

**Aims for 2007:**

The network highlighted Recognition of Prior Learning as a priority for the March meeting next year and with this in mind I contacted Brian Spencer at the Reframing the Future Conference in Sydney late November. Brian is from the Community Services and Health Industry Training Board in Victoria and has contributed significantly to the RPL process over many years.

Brian Spencer has expressed a keen interest in working with the network in their professional development to:

- Provide the theory and knowledge behind RPL and
- To put this knowledge into practice.

In addition to this a meeting will be held in January with Brian Spencer, John Scott from the Training Packages Branch at OTTE and Curriculum Maintenance Managers from both the retail and hospitality packages. There has been considerable interest in looking at the Skills Recognition Tools which became available on the Training Support Network and as part of this professional development day to:

- Consider to identify if anything is available to assist, and/or
- If development of further units would be beneficial - using this model

**Participants Involved:**

Participants involved are drawn from: regional and metropolitan TAFE and include, Victoria University, Chisholm Institute of TAFE, William Angliss, Box Hill TAFE, The Gordon Institute, Kangan Batman TAFE, Swinburne University of Technology and Bendigo Institute of TAFE. Invitations have gone out to a number of other public providers to ensure we cover all areas.