

Wednesday 5th August, 2020

Diploma of Hydraulic Services and Employment

August 5th 2020 Update

This update is quite a specific one which relates to employment of our juniors in the industry and will contribute to the success of the Diploma course. The new Diploma has been written to comply with the requirements of the National Training Package that requires any student studying the Diploma of Hydraulic Services Design should be employed in one of the following:

- A hydraulic consultancy office,
- A plumbing contracting company that has in-house consultants employed for design purposes.

TAFE NSW designs qualifications and training that complies with the requirements of the National Training Packages and the reason for these requirements is to ensure that the workplace can provide guidance and feedback during the period of study for the individual and complies with the training package. For example, if you are studying the Certificate III trade course for plumbing, it is a requirement that you are working for a Licensed Plumber during your study. This ensures that you are receiving on-the-job training alongside your formal studies at TAFE (NSW), you are surrounded by the people and tools that will provide an environment that will allow the student to develop and ensures the maximum opportunity to successfully complete the qualification in a suitable timeframe. TAFE (NSW) have included this concept in the Hydraulic Services Certificate IV and the Diploma to meet compliance requirements with the training package. In an office environment, the student will have access to computer hardware and software packages, large format printers/scanners and a wealth of knowledge and experience from those colleagues that work around them. A senior Hydraulic Consultant at the place of employment will need to “sign-off” certain aspects of the students’ progress and complete logbook entries (Workplace Experience) for the student as part of their studies at TAFE (NSW).

There are currently around 70 individuals around the country that are interested in completing the Certificate IV and Diploma and they will all need to be employed (we note many are already working in design offices) in order to complete their studies. Therefore, we would recommend that all hydraulic businesses around the country consider this for their future business development and for the future of the industry. We understand that this is a difficult time and that many companies are not currently looking to employ new staff, however this is a requirement under the existing training package requirements.

We also understand that some individuals may wish to continue to work “on the tools” while they study. This will need to change such that the plumbers will need to make that transition into the design office (if not working under a Consultant within the contracting company). These requirements were not being met previously and were part of the reason the Diploma enrolments were suspended in 2017 after an internal compliance audit at TAFE (NSW).

NSW government subsidised funding for the Diploma of Hydraulic Services Design (CPC50612) is not currently available to enrolments outside NSW and National funding for all enrolments to this qualification is being investigated and may be available in the future.

However, there is a Traineeship available for the Certificate IV in Plumbing and Services Hydraulic Stream (which is the pre-requisite for enrolment entry into the Diploma). Any employers interested in offering a Traineeship for the Certificate IV can receive funding from the NSW government for new employees. The student must reside and be studying in NSW. A full fee-paying student will pay around \$6,500 for the Certificate IV. The amount that is subsidised by the NSW Government will vary depending on the individual, but as an example, the cost of the course to the student will be \$2,440 if:

- they are older than 15,
- have left school,
- live and work in NSW,
- they are an Australian citizen,
- have no other higher qualification,
- are not receiving other government support.
- Subsidies quoted as at 01/07/2020

Further to this, there are also subsidies available for the Diploma of Hydraulic Services Design. Again, the student must reside and be studying in NSW. A full fee-paying student will pay around \$27,030 for the Diploma. The amount that is subsidised by the NSW Government will vary depending on the individual, but as an example, the cost of the course to the student will be \$7,310 if:

- they are older than 15,
- have left school,
- live and work in NSW,
- they are an Australian citizen,
- have no other higher qualification,
- are not receiving other government support.
- Subsidies quoted as at 01/07/2020

Further information for employers about the Certificate IV Traineeship can be found here: https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/sands/traineeship/CPC40912?meta_1_sand=90003

Further information for employers about Traineeships can be found here:



<https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-employers>

Please contact me if you wish to discuss any aspect of the Diploma. We note that this will be discussed at the next HCAA General Meeting.

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Hydraulic Consultants Association Australasia (HCAA)