Hi Bill,

                I did go to the DEEDI meeting last week. The sun was actually shinning that day.

Attached is a handout provided at the meeting. Speakers were Iona Tait (Regional Manager) and Bill Kingston (Regional Director).

**Funding Dates for Applications**

1.      Draft due 04/02/11 & FINAL due 18/03/11

2.      Draft due 05/08/11 & FINAL due 09/09/11

Only 2 rounds for 2011 & No reserve lists for 2011

NFPO (not for profit organizations) : link to organizations to allow for work experience

Projects:-

       SQW     Program for Long term unemployed

       PIP     Program for Overlooked by current programs

       CLP     Program for Literacy & numeracy. Lack of numeracy & literacy reduces effectiveness of other training programs.

       PPP     Program for completion of Cert.II & Cert.III study. ( Funded by Fed Gov. Next funding round June 30th 2012)

**PIP & CLP about getting people on the pathway to employment with or through SQW. However they need literacy and numeracy first before skill training for work!!** ( Neil R.=> my comment:- sad indictment of present education system where these basic skills have been allowed to lose importance thereby setting young people up to fail.)

Funding Cuts by State Budget

Reduction of 5% in 2010 and can expect the same for 2011.

SEQ represents 65% of funding for these programs. Resulted in $640K lost funding in 2010.

o       Funding decisions are administered by the Queensland Skills Council. Regional Director Bill Kingston is a member.

o       Every submission is examined and all documentation provided is considered by Council.

o       Consultation with DEEDI mandatory for submissions.

o       Submit proposal early, ASAP.

o       Closing Dates FINAL. Late & will not be accepted.

**What does this mean for Shekinah**

       Iona Tait will contact all participants by email presentation regarding this meeting.

       Applications need all supporting documentation.

       Make sure letters of support mean something. ie. Politicians support has limited value. Make sure their letter demonstrates they know what you/we are doing, not a scripted letter. They need to show they understand and believe.

       Submit draft early and consult with DEEDI. They want us to succeed as their program at Council level( the decision makers).

       Closing dates are final!!!      Late not accepted!!!

       Council looks at FINANCALS for substance.

       Council looks for providing training ALREADY!

       Council looks at documentation provided on time, not late.

       Council looks at History of Service Delivery.

       Electronic applications OK but need to be signed.

Work Experience - NFPO

       Link to RTO &/or TAFE OK

       Need correct Insurance. Work experience personel not covered by Employer Workcover Policy.

DEEDI Group plan to meet 6 monthly – Open for discussion.

**My Observations**

o       Meeting was well attended >50 people.

o       Mostly  above program providers.

o       Some service providers like Salvation Army and

o       Shekinah was only local church group.

o       Bill Fowles and Shekinah Program was known to DEEDI and well received.

Bill I trust this helps,

Kind Regards,

Neil