



## The ever changing face of Funding!



On Saturday 3 August 2013 the Federal Government made changes to the **Australian Apprenticeship Incentive Program**. The funding arrangements previously in place for existing employees undertaking a Certificate III or IV in Competitive Systems and Practices, also known as Competitive Manufacturing, have been abolished as part of their cost cutting measures.

As a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) providing nationally recognised qualification to our clients this news only brings about more concern about the economic times ahead for organisations. However, there are still other funding avenues that are open to explore for any company looking to put their employees through the Competitive Systems and Practices pathway using our TPM<sup>3</sup> Methodology.

On a national scale there is the new **National Workforce Development Fund (NWDF)** where the Australian Government provides funding to support training and workforce development in areas of current and future skills need. The funding available is a co-contribution between the organisation and government depending on the size of the workforce.

- 1 to 99 workforce (small organisation) will see a 67% government contribution;
- 100 to 199 workforce (medium organisation) will see a 50% government contribution; and
- 200 + workforce (large organisation) will see a 34% government contribution.

The NWDF is run through Manufacturing Skills Australia with applications open through until 30 April 2014 and all training approved for funding to be completed by 31 December 2015. Enterprises interested in this funding program should visit the MSA website at [www.mskills.com.au](http://www.mskills.com.au) for further details and criteria that may affect employee eligibility or contact CTPM who can assist with this process.

Other national funding options also available include funding through Enterprise Connect, the

Research & Development Tax Incentive and the Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) program. Please contact CTPM for further information.

CTPM have also explored state funding options linked to the Competitive Systems and Practices qualifications we provide. Currently we are in the process of looking into funding programs in Victoria through *Skills for Victoria*, South Australia through *Skills for All*, and Queensland through their eTender website.

In New South Wales, CTPM has been part of the Approved Providers List (APL) since 2011, and through the **Strategic Skills Program (SSP)** has the ability to provide partial or full Cert III & IV in Competitive Systems and Practices qualifications. This training is funded by the NSW Government in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

The funding is provided by the NSW State Training Services for priority industries or priority individuals, enrolment dependent on some eligibility. The SSP has allowed CTPM to provide partial qualification (single unit only) training (often in groups of 10 to 20 employees) to numerous clients.

**Figure 1: Clients who have participated in SSP**



In summary, the key learning from the new funding cuts is that, in these changing times companies should take advantage of the government funding available to develop their people, improve productivity and reduce costs, before it is all too late!