



## **Funding Available for Sustainability Training in the Victorian Fibre and Textile Industry**

The International Fibre Centre (IFC) has recognised that sustainability issues are becoming an increasingly important consideration for the Victorian textile industry with significant implications for longer-term viability and global competitiveness. The Victorian textile and fibre industry has been hard hit by the global economic downturn with delays and cancelling of contracts from trading partners translating into plant closures and job losses. In addition, the combined spectre of climate

change, peak oil, and an increasing regulatory environment for carbon accounting are increasingly impacting on the industry. The 'lean and green' approach is the right model at the right time and will build innovative and competitive capacity in response to the global economic and environmental challenges.

Sustainable practices focus on minimising the use of energy and material resources and the reduction of discharge of pollutants as well as reputation enhancement, staff satisfaction, risk management and business ethics. These are consistent with many of the aims of competitive manufacturing which reflect the financial management imperatives of taking whatever enterprise actions are possible to minimise costs. The underpinning rationale of this Victorian training scheme will be to draw on the synergies between good environmental performance and competitive manufacturing approaches.

This sustainable and competitive manufacturing enterprise training framework developed by the National Centre for Sustainability (NCS) at Swinburne has a number of key features;

- it is designed to be enterprise-based,
- respond to industry economic and sustainability needs,
- fast track the training plans and delivery of training to enterprises and
- allow for a range of participants to engage in training projects in industry from a range of starting points.

This training model encourages RTOs to partner with an enterprise to deliver training with a 'lean to green' approach which will align with the enterprise needs and benefit the enterprise involved in the training. RTO's and enterprises will be supported and encouraged by the NCS to undertake a training needs analysis and develop a training plan which will guide the implementation of the training in industry. Funding is available through the NCS to deliver these projects. Please see the [Application Form \(PDF download\)](#) for more details. For a *Word version* of the application form please contact Brooke Farrugia on 03 9214 8604.

### **Key dates**

#### ***Part A of the Application***

Submissions by COB 17 June 2009.

Funding decision by NCS by COB 26 June 2009

Completion and Report due COB 28 August 2009

#### ***Part B of the Application***

Submissions by COB 28 August 2009

Funding decision by NCS by COB 4 September 2009

Completion/Progress Report by COB 11 December 2009

Please go to the [Application Form \(PDF download\)](#). Assistance in completing the application form is also available from Brooke Farrugia on 03 9214 8604.

Please return the completed application to Brook Farrugia at [bfarrugia@swin.edu.au](mailto:bfarrugia@swin.edu.au) or Ms Brooke Farrugia, Mail H91, National Centre for Sustainability, Swinburne University of Technology, PO Box 218 Hawthorn, 3122.