

CASE STUDY MULTI – SITE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA)



Contract

This contract was awarded under the current Clause 5 of the “Public Works and Procurement Regulation 2014 - Exemption for approved disability employment organisations”.

NDS acts as contract manager on behalf of the SCA and awarded the contract to RichmondPRA - Enterpraise due to their extensive large grounds maintenance experience.

The contract was negotiated using value for money principles throughout.

The contract includes all of the five southern water supply dams - Avon, Nepean, Cataract, Cordeaux and Woronora.

Work includes Lawn and Garden maintenance for all picnic grounds, gardens, pathways, helipads and SCA buildings.

The 2 year contract commenced Aug. 2011 with the option of 3 –one year extensions.

SCA has already exercised the option for the first two years’ extensions.

Outcome

The 21 supported employees working on this project find the grounds maintenance of the dams, one of the most satisfying jobs they do.

The length of the contract means that Richmond PRA have been able to put into place a long term human resources development plan for their supported employees and supervisory staff.

Many of the supported employees have now been trained in Horticulture Cert. 2 and WH&S.

They also learn how to work in teams and how to work to programmed timelines – all of which assists in promoting self confidence and independence.

NDS, Enterpraise and SCA have regular performance management meetings to evaluate the work carried out.

In the contract’s three years of operation, the high quality of the work has been commented on by SCA staff and the general public visiting the picnic areas.

Because of the high level of contract performance, SCA have also awarded a second contract to RichmondPRA –Enterpraise – The Blue Mountains Catchment contract.

SCA has also used other ADEs in varying roles in other catchment areas.

The SCA manager of this project is the Senior Operations Works Supervisor.

Analysis

The case study highlights the opportunity for NSW State Government agencies, or other organisations to potentially meet their business objectives, as well as providing contracts that lead to sustainable employment for people with disability.

The significant issue that has emerged from this particular case study is that people with disability have skills - and can deliver goods and services which meet all NSW Government standards.

The partnership in the case study, between the Sydney Catchment Authority, NDS and Enterpraise, has ensured meaningful and sustainable work for the employees who work on this contract.

Structures and barriers to employment of people with a disability can be broken down and managed.

The potential impact on the community is highly positive.