ICT Project Nomination Form 2012

The teams choose projects based on this short description. There is no guarantee that your project will be taken, make it sound as interesting and as educational as possible.

Project Title:
Do Schools Measure Up Project

Client retains Intellectual Property: Yes
Confidentiality Agreement required: Yes

Project Description:

Introduction

The management of health and safety in schools is both morally and legally important. A school’s “community” is made up of employees, students, parents, volunteers, visitors and contractors as well as people who use the schools facilities outside of school hours (for instance community groups, sports clubs, etc). A school is legally responsible for ensuring the safety of all these people in the conduct of its business.

The introduction of the new Work Health and Safety Act, which will apply Australia wide by 2013, increases the potential legal liability of the school as a body corporate, as well as the liability of the individual “officers” of the school (senior management and the School Board). The new legislation requires the “officers” of any “business or undertaking” to take “positive steps” to monitor and manage health and safety performance, rather than simply responding to issues as they arise. The system I hope we can develop will provide the means of meeting these requirements as well as improving management capability and performance.

Current Position

All businesses, including schools, manage health and safety through what is called their “safety management system”. The elements of a comprehensive safety management system are generally standardised across all businesses, with industry specific elements added on an “as needs” basis. K-12 schools undertake a broad range of potentially risky activities requiring management (e.g. excursions, MDT, sports, working at height, etc) and we have developed a “framework” which can be used to measure and monitor safety management system capability. It is different to most safety systems in that it is not content driven - it is a measurement tool to monitor capability, assist and promote continuous improvement and monitor performance and outcomes. To date, this framework has been used to assess the current capability of 4 schools and has proved successful. My view is that the assessment tool we’ve developed is top class, though we are unable to develop its full capability due to our lack of technological skills. What I would like the project to achieve, should it be chosen, is to take the existing tool and adapt it to develop an on-line process, as well as developing additional management and reporting capability. I need your assistance to take this to the next level!

I am sure that the project will create learning opportunities for all involved. Australian companies are required to manage health and safety by law, though it is sometimes difficult for managers to comprehend what exactly is required. Often senior managers and board members hope that things are OK, but they don’t have any means of confirming whether that’s the case. By the end of the project I envisage participating students will understand the types of reporting and monitoring processes organisations need and the skills and experience to create systems which meet those needs.
My Background

I am a self employed business consultant who specialises in the education sector, primarily working for non-governments schools. I have been working in this sector since 1994, and my background before that was in senior HR management roles in Melbourne. I hold post-graduate qualifications in OHS, and provide services in this area to school in 5 States (Tasmania, Victoria, NSW, Qld and SA). I am experienced in project management, particularly the introduction of large-scale projects involving a large number of participant organisations.

Project Technical Information:
To be determined.

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