

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2013



NT DIVISION NEWS

In the April edition of the NT Division E-Newsletter:

- Policy Update
- New Practice Performance Survey
- Events
- Member benefit spotlight
- Industry News

Policy Update

New visa to secure short term workers: The Government has announced a new [visa subclass 400](#) to help employers bring highly specialised non-ongoing workers to Australia for up to three months. It replaces the 456 visa and is available from 23 March. This visa is simpler to apply for and faster to be approved than the 457 visa.

Practice Performance Survey Tool

You may already be aware that Consult Australia has partnered with Deloitte Private to improve and dramatically upgrade our current Practice Performance Survey (PPS). The new survey tool is completely automated (so you don't have to manually enter any data) and will allow you to benchmark your firm against your competitors – you'll be able to split the data the survey provides by geographic location, firm size, discipline and a range of other variables.

Consult Australia and Deloitte are also offering a **FREE trial of the new survey tool** with absolutely **no obligation to continue** after the trial period. The cost of participating in the survey after the trial is over is extremely modest and just \$150 per year for member firms with less than 20 staff and \$300 per year for member firms with between 21 and 299 staff. It's thousands of dollars cheaper than if you were to access this kind of data from Deloitte direct.

To learn more about the new PPS and see a live demonstration of the survey tool, Consult Australia and Deloitte Private are holding a FREE webinar on Tuesday, 9 April at 12:15pm (AEST)

[Click here to register.](#)

As a participant in the PPS, you will also be able to:

- Benchmark yourself against your competitors;
- Highlight inefficiencies and performance indicators that can lead to improved profitability;
- Forecast various future scenarios in response to changes being made in your practice – Deloitte Private's 'goal seek' model illustrates online how your profits can be improved;
- Review a cash flow analysis. Manage your net cash flow with new insights into cash flow movements; and
- Visualise your KPI's and manage your business towards optimal performance.





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Level 4, 70 Light Square
Adelaide SA 5000
PO Box 10234
Adelaide BC SA 5000
T. 08 8216 1177 F. 08 8216 1178
E. sa@consultaaustralia.com.au
W. www.consultaaustralia.com.au
ABN. 25 064 052 615

I strongly encourage you to register for the webinar to see more about what the new PPS is all about. One of our member firm Managing Directors, Sean Rice from Queensland has already said: *"I can tell you that this initiative alone will compensate for my Consult Australia Membership fees. This software will provide tremendous value to our business, in basically no time at all due to the automatic links with Xero. Very cool! Thank you very much."*

Events...upcoming

May Members Only Breakfast

Wednesday 8 May with The Hon Peter Chandler MLA, Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment, Minister for Housing, Minister for Education. Lands Planning is responsible for developing strategic plans and policies for the sustainable long term use and development of land in the Northern Territory. Join this conversation and develop a better understanding of the Government's key objectives in this space on Wednesday 8 May over a Boardroom Style breakfast. To download registration form [Click Here](#)

The NT Executive Committee also have plans underway for an Industry Networking event to be held mid year in Darwin. Details will be released as confirmed.

Events...past

Members met with **Gary Nairn**, recently announced **Chair of the Northern Territory Planning Commission**. The new independent planning body for the Territory, the NT Planning Commission has been tasked with cutting red tape, speeding up procedures and identifying land for development.

Gary was very enthusiastic about the meeting and of the chance to speak with our members as he had prior knowledge of Consult Australia and our activities within the industry. Gary has also invited attendees of this breakfast to contact him should they be interested in further discussion not covered in the meeting. Gary's contact details are available from Jan Irvine, NT/SA State Manager.

Join Consult Australia

Consult Australia represents an industry comprising some 48,000 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms. Collectively, our industry is estimated to employ over 240,000 people, and generate combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.

Are you a member yet? Contact Jan Irvine, State Manager SA/NT for further information on membership services and benefits at **E: jan@consultaaustralia.com.au**

Consult Australia Member Benefit spotlight – In house DIAC Officer

Did you know Consult Australia has had a Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) Industry Outreach Officer (IOO) working from its offices since 2005, assisting members to utilise the skilled migration program to fill critical employment needs?

The DIAC Industry Outreach Officer plays a key role in assisting the industry to do this by providing Consult Australia members with information about:

- ◆ visa options and case management advice



- ◆ immigration processes and policy
- ◆ e-lodgement of visa applications
- ◆ using SkillSelect

If you have any questions about accessing skilled migration [Click Here](#) to read the Practice Note (5.11 – Skilled Migration for Employees – must be logged in as a member) and to obtain contact details for our IOO.

Consult Australia is now accepting entry forms for the 2013 Awards for Excellence

All the information you need regarding the Awards, including categories, prices, key dates and entry forms is contained in the Call for Entries document. [Click here](#) to view.

For category entry forms, [click here](#).

For Future Leader entry forms, [click here](#).

Entry forms must be received by Consult Australia no later than **Friday, 24 May**. Completed submissions must be received by Consult Australia no later than **Friday, 28 June**.

If you have any questions or need any further information please contact National Events Manager, Alexandra Hopper on (02) 9922 4711 or via email at alex@consultaaustralia.com.au.

Industry News

IPWEA International Public Works Conference, Darwin 11-15 August 2013

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) is bringing the premier event on the public works calendar to Darwin from 11-15 August 2013. Call Ross Moody on 0417 955 394 or email rmoody@ipwea.org.au for more details or visit www.ipwea.org.au/Darwin2013. Share your knowledge and experience! Being held for the first time in the NT, the IPWEA International Public Works Conference provides a rare event for consultants to engage with key stakeholders in the public works industry from the NT and across Australia. The conference, exhibition and associated social events provide opportunities for learning, networking and building relationships.

Should you have any queries on the contents of this Newsletter contact: E: jan@consultaaustralia.com.au

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