

CASESTUDY

ABNC

In 2011 we were introduced to Rob Tomlinson through the Sunshine Coast TAFE Competitive Manufacturing Training program, which we were taking our entire staff through.

Once a fortnight we would down tools for the day and gather around in the smoko room to gain our Certificate 4 in Competitive Manufacturing. This was the start of our journey into understanding how to operate an effective and lean manufacturing business and is how we have shaped our business to date. Rob was the facilitator on the course, and his no nonsense approach, strategic direction, and ability to lead us to what isn't obvious - helped us immensely.

We then embarked upon another program with the Enterprise Connect - Business Review (now AusIndustry Mentoring for Growth) initiative run by the Government. This identified that further systemisation and training was needed to become leaner and more efficient and so we happily re engaged Rob Tomlinson through his company IIAU.

Since that time Rob has helped us to create an orderly work area and abide by the 5S's, which are:

1. Sort
2. Set in Order
3. Shine / Sweep
4. Standardise
5. Sustain

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“ A LEAN BUSINESS IS MORE EFFICIENT AT MAKING MORE MONEY, AND ALSO MAKES US MORE COMPETITIVE AGAINST FOREIGN IMPORTS ”



We also strictly adhere to the 8 Wastes rule, which has helped us to massively reduce waste of over resourcing and time wasting.

The 8 Wastes include:

1. Defects & Rework
2. Over production
3. Waiting
4. Non-Effective use of Resources
5. Transportation
6. Inventory & Storage
7. Motion
8. Excessive Processing

Putting these simple yet effective incremental improvement strategies in place throughout the ABnc Manufacturing Plant has helped us to increase efficiencies so much so that over 8 months we reduced our staff numbers from 34 to 26, as we essentially had 8 too many people on pay roll because we were of all the identified wastes.

As a result we have increased revenue by 20% due to resource maximization.

Another great by product of our training and change of processes has been the Cultural Shift in the workplace. We have moved from being what was more totalitarian and management driven, to the team being part of the solution and them being able and willing to identify and suggest solutions to problems. The fact that our culture has changed so that we now have team members who want to take ownership of their roles has made our workplace a happy and proactive one.

Rob now comes in once a month to workshop any new issues we may have within the business, this helps us to continue to grow and strive for efficiency perfection and also gives us the reality check we need.

The team really like dealing with Rob, in fact this was one of the reasons the lean processing training has worked so well. Rob is able to communicate with our team in a way that we were not able to. His easy going yet direct manner and his ability to soften the blow with humour helped the team to bond to him, which essentially yielded better results. Rob has an inherent ability to break down the barriers, which helped change the culture.

Rob has taught us a better, more efficient way to run our business and as a result this has made all of our jobs easier. We now get more output from the team and equipment with reduced but more streamlined input.

We continually refer Rob and IIAU and will continue to do so, his ability to identify and fix processing problems has helped ABnc immensely – for that we are extremely grateful. Thanks Rob.

Lean Training has helped us to:

Reduce our staff numbers from 34 to 26

We have increased revenue by 20% due to resource maximization

There has been a Cultural Shift in the workplace

Rob has taught us a better, more efficient way to run our business

Through monthly work shopping we continue to grow and strive for efficiencies in the workplace

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