

## Getting on Board

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

#### The Company

Buslink, in operation since 1988, is the Northern Territory's largest private bus company specialising in public, school and charter bus services.

The company has sister operations in the Queensland regions of Gladstone and Sunshine Coast and Mildura in Victoria.

#### The NWDF Project

Buslink developed a best practice, competency based drivers' manual of Buslink's procedures and policies while delivering the Certificate IV in Transport and Logistics (Road Transport - Heavy Vehicle Driving Instruction) under the NWDF.

#### The NWDF Participants

Four existing company drivers selected through an expression of interest process – "people we knew to be good drivers."

#### Project Value

Total value of NWDF program to date: \$20,000.

#### Benefits

"The training regime has a strict safety and compliance focus, and it ensures a steady supply of qualified, licensed drivers which is important as Buslink routinely loses as much as half of its workforce every 12 months to higher paid jobs."



"When I started here two years ago, there were two driver trainers and they had no qualifications though one had been working for Buslink for about 16 years," says Barry Pett, Buslink's training and recruitment manager.

"Before, we used to just go out and teach them and we didn't really have a lesson plan to follow, we just did it based on what we knew they had to do," Pett says.

"The big difference now is that they accept we need to do certain things, because they've had input to developing these documents, these driver training plans."

Pett says training costs Buslink a considerable amount per year, so it was "good we got the National Workforce Development Fund application sorted out".

"The Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council were supportive of the whole thing, they encouraged us to do it, which was good because sometimes these things are hard to do, the amount of time and effort you have to put in."

BUSLINK