

Update from Mps People Solutions



Brant Lang – Consultant
Technical & Engineering

Focus on Water

Water is a very important commodity and as a state we have to plan the security of our resources for the future. This has seen the South Australian Government implement the Water for Good Plan to ensure sustainable water supplies to the state and enable us to diversify our supplies to reduce our reliance on the River Murray and other rain dependent water sources. The most publicised project to come from this plan has been the \$1.83b desalination plant at Port Stanvac which is capable of producing 100GL of water each year, or equivalent to about half of Adelaide's annual water supply. Other notable water projects in the state have included the Southern Urban Reuse Project, Christies Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and the Glenelg to Adelaide Park Lands Recycled Water Project.

The importance of water security for the state has acted as a catalyst in bringing SA to the forefront of water engineering excellence. According to Water Industry Alliance (WIA), last year SA exported close to \$400m worth of goods and services in this sector. This is expected to grow to an estimated \$750m of water related products and services by 2012.

Continued investment in this sector will see the future growth of companies involved in innovation and technology with engineering showing the way and providing solutions to numerous technical challenges.

However, this success comes with its difficulties and the Australian Water Association recently predicted that there would be a shortfall of some 40,000 staff by 2018, Scientists and Engineers making up the bulk of this skill shortage. This skills shortage is a concern and if you are interested to hear more about career opportunities in the water industry, we welcome the opportunity to discuss your options by contacting either Engineers Australia or Mps People Solutions.

Interview Tips

No matter how experienced you are at interviews, it is often a make or break situation. If you don't impress it's unlikely you'll be given another chance. Survey data shows the candidate who wins the job is not always the most qualified on paper, on many occasions it's the person the interviewer felt demonstrated the right attitude, confidence and behaviours during the interview. To ensure that person is you, here are some handy guidelines to help you during the process.

- It is a Competition – with the prize of winning the job so treat it like one
- Research – do your research and ground work on the role, the company, what their expectations are and how you can meet them
- Presentation – always present in a professional, tidy manner appropriate to the environment.
- Preparation – be prepared for the questions they may ask you, think about your answers beforehand.
- Ice Breaker – it's natural to be a little nervous. To help break the ice, look for something in reception or in their office that's not too personal that you can comment on
- Verbal Communication – speak clearly, calmly, try not to speak too fast, don't interrupt and take time to consider your responses before opening your mouth
- Non-Verbal Communication – it is very important during an interview that your non-verbal communication mirrors your verbal communication to reflect your interest and enthusiasm.

For example:

- a. Handshakes – always shake hands with the interviewer at the start and the end of the interview.
 - b. Body Language – always sit facing the interviewer, sit up straight, don't slouch and look interested in what they are saying.
 - c. Eye Contact – always pay full attention to the interviewer; never gaze around the room or out the window
 - d. Smile – although you will probably be nervous, make sure you smile.
- Be Yourself – remember it's a two way situation so the interviewer wants to find out who you are as a person and get a sense for your individual character
 - Thank the Interviewer

For more helpful interview hints and tips please visit our website www.mpsgroup.com.au

Did You Know?

97% of the Earth's water is found in oceans, making only 3% of the earth's water fresh.

Water covers 71% of the earth's surface.

More than three quarters of the world's fresh water is not available because it is locked in ice caps, is inaccessible or is polluted.

Mps People Solutions

Level 9 | 55 Currie Street

Adelaide SA 5000

P | 08 8210 8585

F | 08 8210 8500

mpsgroup.com.au

