

AQA secures Inspiring Futures funding

Heidi Bendikson - Tue, 11 Jul 2023



The quarrying sector is among groups to have received grants from a newly formed foundation's latest funding round.

The Aggregate and Quarry Association was awarded funding from the Inspiring Futures Foundation to use towards a one-day introduction to quarrying course, which will be delivered by the Institute of Quarrying.

Association chief executive Wayne Scott says the course will be for new employees in the quarrying industry and those associated with the sector.

"It'll be useful for people working in concrete plants because they're using aggregate. And it will be useful for Waka Kotahi staff and local government staff, just to give them a general understanding of how we can make the products and how we can use them."

The funding will also allow AQA to develop six short videos, which can be used as part of the training but will also be publicly available.

Inspiring Futures

The [Inspiring Futures Foundation](#) was established last year to provide financial support for people working in, or studying to work in, the automotive, transport and logistics, drilling, mining and quarrying, and gas industries.

"Inspiring Futures is a wonderful pool of money for the quarrying sector," Scott says.

The foundation's industry partners include Straterra, the Institute of Quarrying NZ, the Aggregate and Quarry Association, MinEx and AusIMM's NZ branch.

Groups to receive funding so far include: Perform X Aotearoa, the IoQ, AQA and the NZ Drillers Association.

Australian connection

Scott says the AQA course will make use of material for a similar programme run in Australia, adapted for a New Zealand audience, rather than starting from scratch.

"Our plants are a bit different than they are in Australia. So, we'll have to do a bit of work on it. And obviously, we want to put some local quarries in there, not Australian ones. So, we'll use the money for that rather than developing it ourselves."

The one-day programme will be available in the second quarter of 2024. The six videos should be available sooner and probably around the end of the year, Scott says.

While not approved as part of this round of funding, Scott says there were discussions with the foundation on another potential education initiative aimed at the more technical side of quarrying.

Further research and work is needed on the course which would be linked to an NZQA qualification, he says.