

## Media monitoring

Media QBR Online

Date 02/02/10

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### Maryborough biz drives Queensland manufacturing



#### February 2, 2010

Maryborough-based [Global Manufacturing Group](#) (GMG) has ensured it remains competitive in an international market by investing in world-class manufacturing best practices.

GMG has worked with [QMI Solutions](#) since 2004 to implement 'lean' production processes which minimise wastage and streamline the manufacturing of its components.

It manufactures just about anything made from metal, and outputs thousands of metal components to individual customer specifications every day.

Rising above competitors, GMG stands out because of its digitally-integrated manufacturing capability, which means it can manufacture complex components for clients, without face-to-face contact.

Streamlining the quotation and ordering processes, coupled with the lean methods, means GMG can also provide internationally competitive prices.

GMG decided to undertake QMI Solutions' five-day ProEdge workshop which focuses on lean manufacturing, a business practice characterised by eliminating wastage in order to provide great customer value.

Directors Phil Dowling, Peter Wall and Richard Aylward took the course to ensure the management team were all on same page right from the start.

"Using a top down approach, to date we have sent 16 key management staff to the program over the last five years and will continue to send employees to specific modules," Dowling says.

## **Employing change**

QMI was asked to examine the current factory layout for GMG and then to develop new designs for a new replacement factory.

Enlisting QMI's help proved invaluable, as GMG discovered the best option was to stay put in the current factory and make some small but very significant changes.

Changing the layout of the factory into a more logical sequence streamlined the flow of material and information through the production process.

"Once a job has moved through a work centre, it is moved to the buffer zone of the next work centre. Raw materials and components are collected, which consolidates the job. It also allows us to schedule additional shifts at some work centres with limited capacity," Dowling says.

With the new layout successfully up and running, GMG then implemented QMI's 5S Housekeeping, which involves creating an organised workplace using five steps: sort, set in order, shine, standards and sustain.

## **Protocol to profit**

Five years on GMG is going from strength to strength and estimates productivity savings of considerable dollars per annum, resulting from the streamlined processes.

Global Manufacturing Group received a Queensland Government subsidy for QMI Solutions to deliver its improvement program.

The program is available to Queensland manufacturers and assists in the creation of jobs and sustainability in the areas of skilling, performance and innovation, and capability.

In FY08/09, QMI Solutions was involved in helping Queensland industry win \$545 million worth of work, \$158 million of which went to regional Queensland companies.

Additionally, QMI Solutions helped Queensland manufacturers achieve \$32.5 million in increased sales, \$1.1 million in increased exports, \$6.8 million in cost savings, \$7.8 million in investment effects – all of which equates to the creation and retention of over 6,900 jobs.