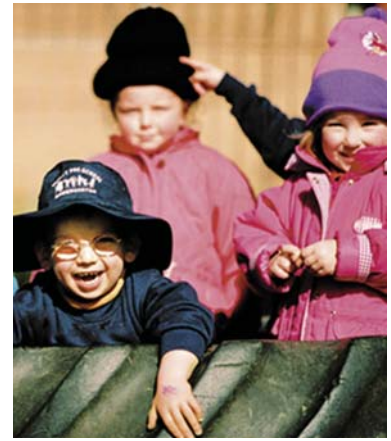


MicrOpay Meridian streamlines payroll for OCRO

New payroll solution helps streamline integration with new accounting system



A new payroll solution is helping one of New South Wales' growing community organisations expand and quickly respond to the July 2005 legislation on superannuation choice and latest tax rates.

The Orange Community Resource Organisation (OCRO) has been providing regional residents with a range of community services since 1984 and has been steadily growing ever since.



"We're an evolving organisation with an increasing number of services and stakeholders and our accounting and payroll software could not keep up," said Lynette Wittig, Executive Officer of OCRO.

The organisation's services currently include Commonwealth Carer Respite Centre, Carelink Centre, Dementia Respite Home Modification, Level One and Two Building Services, Disability Services and Early Childhood Access Support Service. All of which are delivered by a diverse employee base which falls under a range of awards and contracts.

OCRO had been using a small business "off the shelf" accounting solution to handle payroll but expansion had forced the organisation to review its accounting and management systems.

With more than 80 staff made up of full-timers, part-timers, fixed term employees and casuals, standard payroll and leave accruals had become a very complex and time consuming process.

"Payroll was becoming an increasingly cumbersome task. For example when pay rises were awarded to a group of staff we had to manually key in the increase to every staff member's file," said Lynette.

OCRO required a solution that would support the expansion of the organisation, integrate with all financial and business management data systems and make the payroll function a more efficient process.

"As OCRO's objective is to give back to the community, the new solution had to save money and improve the organisation's efficiency," said Lynette.

OCRO deploys MicrOpay Meridian

The payroll component of their entry-level accounting system was replaced with MicrOpay Payroll Manager then MicrOpay Meridian. MicrOpay Meridian is the latest product developed by Australian payroll pioneers Sage MicrOpay and its open architecture means it will integrate with most leading accounting and business software solutions.

It's an easy to use solution that provides advanced payroll functionality, powerful performance and comprehensive reporting and analysis. Supported by Australia's market leader in payroll solutions*, MicrOpay Meridian clients regularly receive updates with enhancements and changes to local tax and statutory requirements.

"OCRO chose MicrOpay Meridian because it was the most proven payroll product on the market. We knew it could be quickly deployed and provide a rapid return on investment," said Lynette.

As a result of the MicrOpay Meridian implementation, all of OCRO's manual payroll processes were automated and there was no longer room for human error.

"Payroll processing now takes a fraction of the time and staff can respond quickly to ad hoc queries. When a group of employees receives a pay increase we now simply alter the pay class and it updates all employees within the group across the region," she said.

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MicrOpay Meridian Interfaces with Accounting Systems

"We've also found MicrOpay Meridian goes a long way in helping us manage the additional administration that comes with changes in legislation and rates. From an auditing and compliance perspective, everything now cross balances".

"Transaction and costing data can be transferred to the finance systems with the click of a button," said Lynette.

"MicrOpay Meridian is part of OCRO's long term strategy to integrate payroll with the new accounting and management solutions. When integration with Great Plains is complete the general ledger will integrate with the finance system so that at the end of every pay fortnight we will be able to automatically pick up figures for each cost centre without having to run specific cost centre reports and manually key figures into Great Plains."

MicrOpay Meridian automatically tracks leave accruals and provides superior reporting capabilities which can be exported to Microsoft® Excel, Text, HTML and PDF depending on OCRO's requirements.

As all payroll functions (including reporting) are now automated and accurate, staff calls to the payroll department have been cut almost to zero.

"When payroll staff are lonely you know the system is good. MicrOpay Meridian is part of OCRO's evolution by supporting our future as well as our current needs."

MicrOpay Meridian delivers on the secrets of exceptional payroll...

First-class implementation and ongoing support minimises the lifetime cost of a payroll system and reduces staff downtime. Sage MicrOpay's total solution approach to payroll encompasses everything from software to recruitment, training, consulting and support, including:

- Full set up of system parameters at your site
- Comprehensive training, including the operation of chosen modules
- Highly knowledgeable telephone and web support for fast responses to everyday or more challenging questions
- Updates to regulatory, legislative and tax changes; and
- Regular software enhancements based on client and market requirements.

"When payroll staff are lonely you know the system is good."

Lynette Wittig
Executive Officer of OCRO



As the most recent product in Sage MicrOpay's portfolio, MicrOpay Meridian software delivers:

- Flexible and accurate payroll processing
- Quick and easy implementation, with a simple to learn, user-friendly interface
- Fully featured functionality with HR and Employee Self Service options
- Visually superior - onscreen presentation of data with comprehensive reporting and analysis
- Powerful performance from a technically advanced and reliable software platform
- Affordability and a rapid return on investment.

And because it's a Sage MicrOpay solution, you know you have the support of Australia's market leader in payroll solutions*.

Who could ask for anything more?

*Sage MicrOpay solutions are used by more than one third of Australian Businesses with 50 to 1,000 employees. Source: ACA Research Nov 2004.

Images supplied with compliments by the Orange Community Resource Organisation.

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