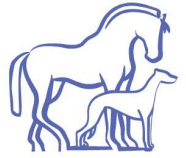
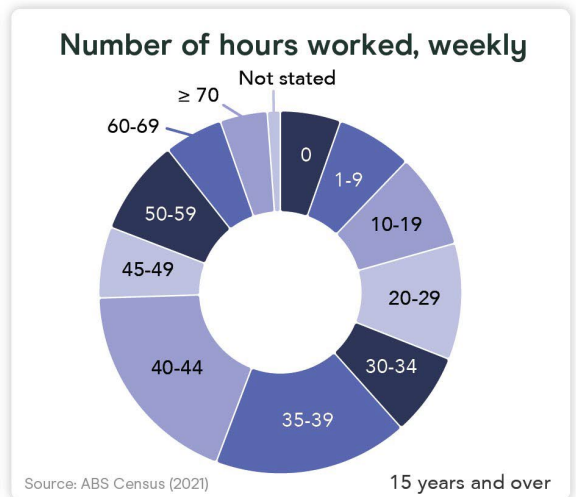
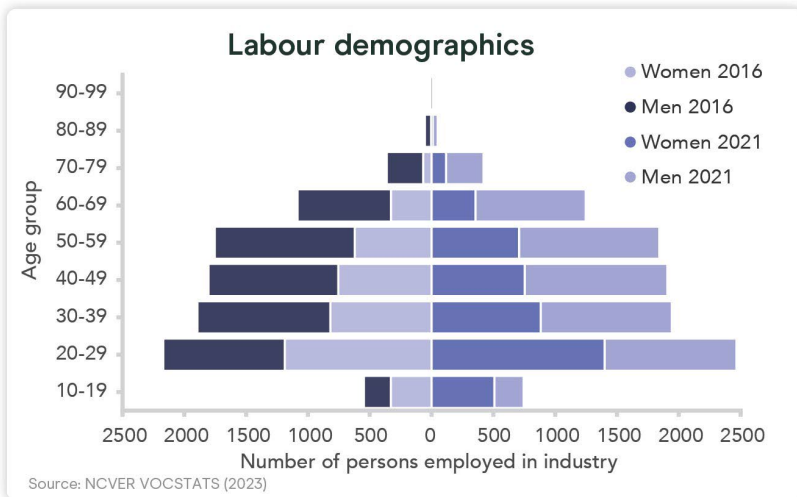
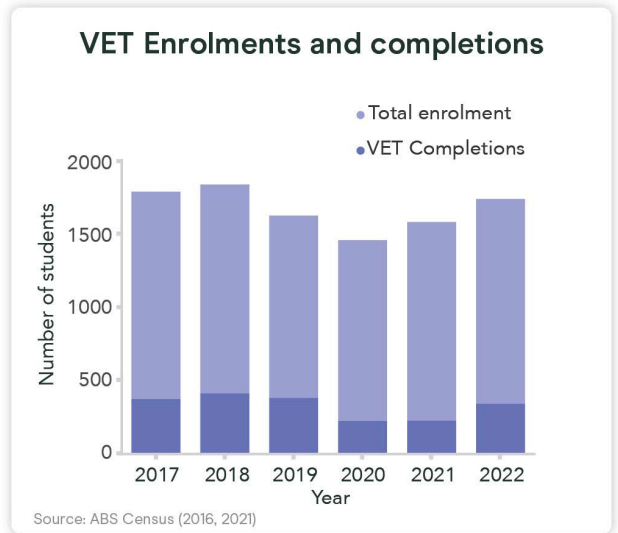
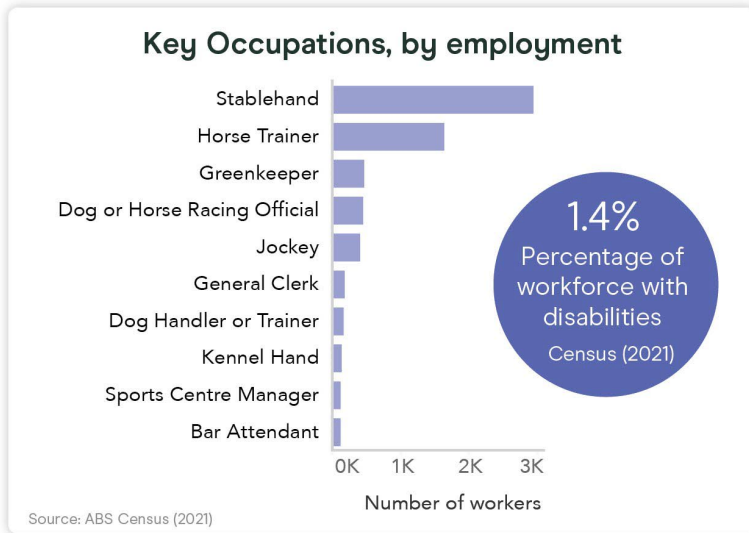
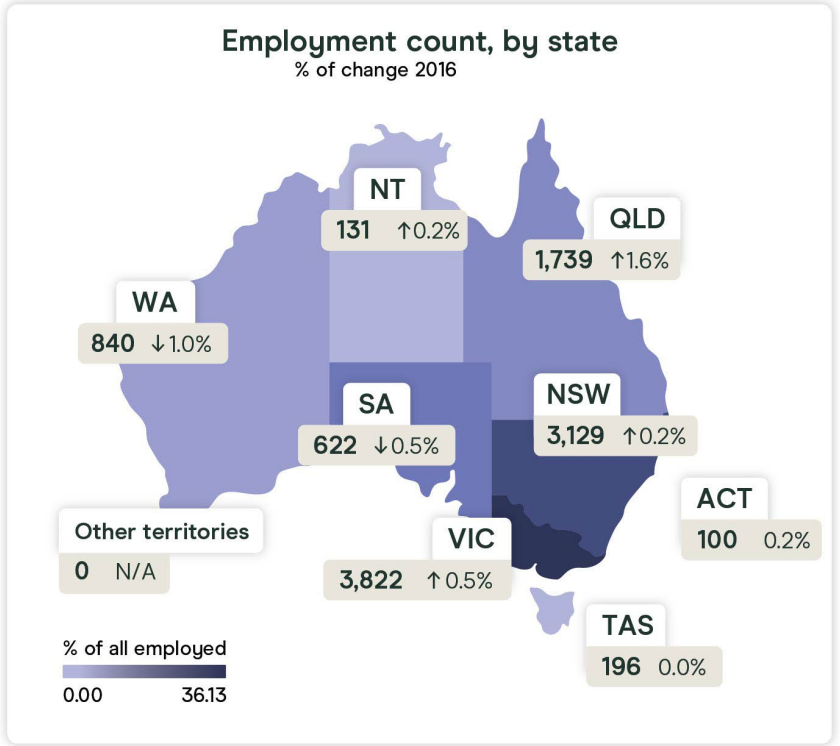


3.16. Horse and Dog Racing

Horse and Dog Racing



ANZSIC A9121, A9129



3.16.1. Industry sectors (ANZSIC Classes)

- Horse and Dog Racing Administration and Track Operations
- Other Horse and Dog Racing Activities

Key insights from industry sector infographic and other data	Priority
Labour shortages	High
Long working hours	Medium

The Horse and Dog Racing industries include racing authority operation, racehorse and race dog ownership and training, and racetrack and race club operation. Businesses are engaged in operating facilities that are specially designed and used for thoroughbred horse racing, harness (standardbred) horse racing and greyhound racing. Main activities include the operation of racing stables and kennels, the operation of horse or greyhound racing courses or tracks, the administration of racing clubs, the provision of riding or harness driving services, and horse or greyhound training for racing.

The Horse and Dog Racing workforce are expected to achieve the highest possible standards of safety and animal welfare across all areas of their work, while also supporting the success of each animal in sport and breeding activities. Reputable workers in this industry are skilled in training, nutrition, and biomechanics to care for dogs or horses actively participating in racing, keeping them physically healthy and preventing injury. Expertise is also required to retrain animals and support their welfare as they move into breeding or other environments. Knowledge of pedigrees, animal welfare issues, business management, and regulations are needed across the industry to maintain the high standards expected by the public.

The National Training Register details qualifications corresponding to specialised job roles in Horse and Dog Racing. These include:

- Racing – Greyhound (Certificate II and III)
- Racing Industry (Certificate II)
- Racing – Stablehand (Certificate I and III)
- Racing – Driving Stablehand (Certificate III)
- Racing Services (Certificate III)
- Racing – Trackwork Rider (Certificate III)
- Racing – Racehorse Trainer (Certificate IV, Diploma)
- Racing – Jockey (Certificate IV)
- Racing – Harness Race Driver (Certificate IV)
- Greyhound Racing Industry (Certificate IV)
- Racing Integrity (Certificate IV)
- Racing Integrity Management (Diploma)
- Horse Stud Management (Diploma)
- Horse Breeding (Certificate III and IV)

Below are examples of units of competency, which sit within these qualifications, that are unique to the skills and knowledge applied by competent industry workers:

Unit title	Unique skills and knowledge
Relate animal welfare to track and environmental conditions (RGRTRK402)	This unit applies to individuals who relate the injuries and performance of racing animals to external conditions and present options for improving performance and safety.
Manage reproductive outcomes of stallions and mares (RGRHBR502)	This unit applies to individuals who maximise breeding outcomes through preparing stud stock for breeding, assessing and maximising fertility, responding to foaling problems and emergencies, and managing contracts and leases for breeding stock.

3.16.2. Drivers of workforce dynamics

Labour shortages

The National Skills Commission's 2022 Skills Priority List data shows national shortages in Horse Trainers.

There are also state-based and regional shortages in the following occupations:

- Dog Handler or Trainer
- Dog and Horse Racing Official
- Horse Breeder
- Jockey
- Track Rider

Training provision

In its 2022 report, the Racing and Breeding Industry Reference Committee noted high levels of unacknowledged employment in the sector, including volunteers and race-day participants. The report also remarked that in the relative absence of formal training delivery, enterprises seek alternative training options for their staff, leading to an overall lowering of formal demand. With both supply and demand suffering, these VET markets are characterised as 'thin'. An example of a thinning VET market is typified by the discontinuation of the highly regarded Equine Section at Richmond TAFE from February 2022.⁶³

Horse and Dog Racing Summary

Workforce challenges

- Labour shortages.
- Workplace culture: long working hours.
- Thin training markets in specific locations.

Key evidence gaps

- Unacknowledged employment in the sector, including volunteers and race-day participants.

Workforce planning priorities

- Development of nationally consistent training and assessment tools for select qualifications in the *RGR Training Package* (to be submitted after identification of RTOs prepared to deliver training). **(1b, 3c, 3d)**
- Pilot the mapping of career pathways by using the *RGR Training Package* and building on the approaches developed by industry stakeholders. **(3a, 3b)**