

Skills Insight Update

April 2026

Skills Insight is Australia's Jobs and Skills Council (JSC) for agribusiness, fibre, furnishing, food, animal and environment care industries. As an independent, not-for-profit organisation, we're funded by government and governed by industry, providing employers, workers and training providers a direct voice to shape the national training system. This report provides an update on the progress of activities as part of our role as a JSC. While we share news through [our website](#) and [news alerts](#) for all stakeholders, this detailed update is for stakeholders with a deeper interest in our work.

Industries we support

Our industry stakeholders are connected by a complex value chain that is crucial to Australia's communities, ecosystems and prosperity.

- Animal care and management
- Aquaculture and wild catch
- Broadacre cropping
- Ecosystem management, conservation, landscaping and gardening
- Forest management and harvesting
- Furnishing and other manufacturing
- Horticulture
- Livestock farming
- Meat, poultry and seafood processing
- Pulp, paper, packaging and hygiene products
- Racing and breeding
- Textiles, clothing and footwear
- Timber, wood processing and building solutions

Training packages we support

- [ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package](#)
- [AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package](#)
- [AMP Australian Meat Processing Training Package](#)
- [FWP Forest and Wood Products Training Package](#)
- [MST Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Training Package](#)
- [MSF Furnishing Training Package](#)
- [PPM Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Industry Training Package](#)
- [RGR Racing and Breeding Training Package](#)
- [SFI Seafood Industry Training Package](#)

Summary of key activities and projects

For more details on current activities, use the links below. Visit our [Annual Activity Plan webpage](#) for an overview of past and present projects.

Activity	Description	Type	Status	Comments
Workforce Planning Visit webpage	This work guides Skills Insight's priorities and project submissions and provides stakeholders with evidence to inform their own workforce planning, training strategies and investment in skills.	Strategic core function	Workforce Plan 2026-2027 being prepared for submission	The draft Workforce Plan 2026-27 has undergone broad stakeholder review and will be submitted to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) on 30 April.
VET Workforce Project Visit webpage	Across Australia's regional, rural and remote areas, the VET sector is challenged in growing and sustaining a workforce to suitably train workers for our essential industries - creating a need for practical, feasible and industry-led attraction and retention solutions for the VET workforce.	DEWR-led collaborative project with all ten JSCs	Stream three underway with roundtable and networking events occurring around the country	Co-design of a Workforce Development Framework is underway to support collaboration between employers and RTOs in developing a regionally-based, fit-for-purpose VET workforce. Stream three also includes piloting a model for training First Nations workplace mentors, in partnership with a First Nations organisation.
ACM Veterinary Nursing Review Visit webpage	There is a growing demand for broader skills to provide essential care and treatment to animals across diverse environments and species. It is	Training Package Project	Broad consultation feedback being reviewed	Select qualifications and units are being prepared for a second round of Broad Consultation due to the breadth of feedback

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	important that nationally endorsed veterinary nursing qualifications and related training package products align with the full range of contexts and job tasks required.			contributed during the initial feedback period. All draft training products will be made available for comment at the subsequent Consensus Gathering stage.
AHC Agriculture Trade Apprenticeship Qualification Visit webpage	This project will develop a new nationally recognised Certificate III Agricultural Trade qualification and associated units within the AHC Training Package. It builds on prior feasibility work and strong industry and jurisdictional support.	Training Package Project	Project planning	A Technical Committee is being assembled to guide the project and provide input into the Terms of Reference and Consultation Strategy.
AHC Rural Operations Project Visit webpage	The <i>Certificate II in Rural Operations</i> is used to provide learners with the foundational skills required across various industries, particularly in Northern Australia. This project is reviewing the qualification so it accurately captures the broad range of skills and knowledge required across industries and regions, in line with the Training Package Organising Framework (TPOF) 2025.	Training Package Project	Broad Consultation feedback being reviewed	The draft <i>Certificate II in Rural Operations</i> is being prepared for Consensus Gathering, with a final check on the proposed qualification title occurring prior to the draft being made available for stakeholder comment.
AMP Retail Butchers and Smallgoods Project Visit webpage	This is the next project in the ongoing review of the AMP Training Package. It will commence with a workforce functional analysis to confirm current	Training Package Project	Workforce functional analysis report being developed	Insights from workforce functional analysis (WFA) workshops have been collated and analysed in a draft WFA

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<i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of MINTRAC as part of our collaborative partnership.</i>	trade roles, regulatory requirements, visa eligibility and skill needs.			report, which is currently being refined. The WFA report will guide the review of training products.
<p>MSF Window Furnishings and Shade Sails Project</p> <p>Visit webpage</p> <p><i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of FurnishingWorks, a part of ForestWorks, as part of our collaborative partnership.</i></p>	A review of the <i>Certificate III in Blinds, Awnings, Security Screens, and Grilles</i> , and relevant units of competency, is underway to improve their flexibility and relevance to the skill needs in today's workplaces. The sector's diverse range of fabrics, fittings and fixtures has contributed to a high level of complexity within manufacturing and installation occupations.	Training Package Project	Published	The final qualification, skill sets and units of competency were endorsed by the Skills Ministers on 3 March 2026 and published on the National Training Register on 13 March 2026.
<p>MST Textile Flooring Manufacturing Pathway</p> <p><i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of TextileWorks, a part of ForestWorks, as part of our collaborative partnership.</i></p>	The <i>Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles</i> will be updated with a textile flooring manufacturing stream to create a clear entry pathway and support the sector's workforce.	Training Package Project	Project planning	Stakeholder engagement is underway and a Technical Committee is being assembled to guide this project to add textile flooring manufacturing skills to the <i>Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles</i> . Further details and a project webpage will be available soon. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information about the planned scope and timeframes.

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<p>RGR Improved Training Pathways and Safety in Racing</p> <p>Visit webpage</p>	<p>This project will be undertaken in two phases, the first phase entails a skills review to analyse jobs roles and functions related to the RGR Racing and Breeding Training Package. The second phase will revise qualifications for horse breeding, trackwork riders and jockeys, reflecting industry's identification of these as a priority for review.</p>	<p>Training Package Project</p>	<p>Project planning - Skills Review</p>	<p>Initial research and stakeholder engagement are underway to understand the complexities of the racing and breeding industries and their training requirements. Two working groups are being formed to guide the Skills Review.</p>
<p>Australia's Biosecurity - Skills Review</p> <p>Visit webpage</p>	<p>This is a cross-industry review that will analyse the skills needs to effectively implement the National Biosecurity Strategy. In partnership between Skills Insight (lead) and Public Skills Australia, this project will examine the skills needs and occupations connected to Biosecurity.</p>	<p>Research Project</p>	<p>Project planning</p>	<p>Initial research and planning are underway to review the roles, skills and training pathways that underpin Australia's environmental biosecurity system. An advisory committee is being formed to guide consultation and project approach.</p>
<p>Landscaping Skills Review</p> <p>Visit webpage</p>	<p>Skills Insight and state landscaping associations are leading this project to identify and map landscaping job titles, roles, skills and knowledge at a national level. This will create a clearer picture of the industry, the capabilities it needs, and the career pathways it can offer.</p>	<p>Research Project</p>	<p>Initial identification of job roles and functions, career pathways, and regional regulations</p>	<p>During March and April, a Skills Review questionnaire and two online workshops were organised to collect information on current job roles, skills needs and regulations. These insights are now being analysed to inform the Skills Review Report.</p>

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Regional, Rural and Remote VET Policy Decision Making	This activity is derived from the Exploring Training Demand and Supply Challenges Report and will assess the feasibility of using integrated labour market and training data to support evidence-based decision-making in VET delivery, particularly for regional, rural and remote Australia. Findings may inform future cross-JSC and government initiatives aimed at strengthening data-driven planning and transparency in training delivery.	Research Project	Project planning	A selection of data sources relevant to VET delivery decisions have been identified for investigation. Proposals have been received from organisations with expertise in VET, regional issues and the development of evidence-based multi-factor decision-guidance tools to support the feasibility research. Further details and a project webpage will be available soon.
Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Skills Mapping Project Visit webpage <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of TextileWorks, a part of ForestWorks, as part of our collaborative partnership.</i>	This project will identify current and emerging skill needs, career pathways, transferable skills, and gaps in training provision. Insights from this work can be used to inform the design of training products and other workforce planning considerations. Targeted consultations will be undertaken with stakeholders across the industry, which will be used alongside existing data to provide a view of industry skills and occupations.	Research Project	Development underway	Consultation workshops took place through January-March, with discussions focused on collectively mapping key job roles, discussing changing skill requirements, and identifying priority areas for workforce development and training products. Further targeted consultation is underway.
Flock Safe Visit webpage	The avian influenza outbreak highlighted the importance of skills to care for individual flocks in protecting	Pilot Project	Implementation underway	National workshops were delivered throughout 2025 and early 2026. Post-workshop

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<i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of MINTRAC as part of our collaborative partnership.</i>	the biosecurity of the larger poultry industry. Skills Insight and MINTRAC are undertaking this project to deliver free biosecurity management planning workshops around the country and online.			check-ins are now underway to assess training outcomes.
<p>Mapping Animal Care and Management Licensing and Regulatory Considerations</p> <p>Visit webpage</p>	This project aims to assist registered training organisations (RTOs) in navigating licensing, legislative, regulatory, and certification requirements when delivering animal care and management training. A resource will be produced to provide accessible guidance on relevant requirements. The pilot will test a scalable structure and process that JSCs can apply across training packages in the future, creating a centralised resource.	Pilot Project	Finalisation	The resource and report have been submitted to DEWR for consideration, after which they will be published on the Skills Insight website.
<p>Mapping of Workplace Training to Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Qualifications</p> <p>Visit webpage</p> <p><i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of ForestWorks as</i></p>	This project will map existing workplace training modules to PPM training package products, test the alignment through a gap analysis, and engage stakeholders to establish a clear pathway for formal skills recognition and workforce growth.	Pilot Project	Mapping activities and reporting	A project report of findings has been developed and shared with key stakeholders for feedback.

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<p><i>part of our collaborative partnership.</i></p> <p>New Entrants as Sewing Machinists Visit webpage <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of TextileWorks, a part of ForestWorks, as part of our collaborative partnership.</i></p>	<p>This project looks to develop a nationally scalable training model to support delivery of the Industrial Sewing Skill Set, attract new entrants and support priority cohorts, including women and culturally diverse learners.</p>	Pilot Project	Project planning	Initial consultation and planning have commenced, and a project Working Group is being formed to guide the project.
<p>Tree Allocation Partnerships Visit webpage <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of ForestWorks as part of our collaborative partnership.</i></p>	<p>Demonstrating safe technique on a real tree is an essential part of completing training in manual tree felling. However, sourcing appropriate trees can be challenging for registered training organisations (RTOs), creating a barrier to training. This project aims to address challenges in sourcing trees for training and assessment of the basic, intermediate and advanced tree felling units.</p>	Pilot Project	Finalised	A report on the pilot program outcomes has been submitted to DEWR. The report and a series of tools to support access to trees will be available on the project webpage soon.
<p>Worker Safety Induction Pilot Visit webpage <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of MINTRAC as part</i></p>	<p>Consultation took place throughout this project to inform the development of a worker safety induction program for the meat industry. This included developing simulated learning</p>	Pilot Project	Pilot complete	A final report has been produced outlining findings and recommendations, including advice for program implementation. The learning

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<i>of our collaborative partnership.</i>	modules and testing the modules with the project steering committee.			materials will be available to access soon.
Attraction and Retention Guidance Visit webpage	Attracting and retaining a skilled workforce is a key priority for the industries Skills Insight supports. A multitude of effective strategies and resources exist; however, businesses can struggle to navigate them and identify advice that suits their specific attraction and retention needs. Work is underway to develop a web resource offering tailored guidance on attracting and retaining employees across our industries, with a focus on rural, regional, and remote areas.	Implementation Support Materials Project	Finalised	A web resource to help small and medium businesses strengthen their staff attraction and retention strategies, especially in rural, regional and remote areas is now available.
Community-based Aquaculture Training Tools Visit webpage	Led by the Aboriginal Sea Company, in partnership with Skills Insight, the Community Based Aquaculture Tools Project is supporting the growth of First Nations aquaculture enterprises. By working closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the Aboriginal Sea Company is developing training tools that are culturally grounded and tailored to the needs of First Nations learners. These resources will enable registered training organisations (RTOs) to deliver existing	Implementation Support Materials Project	Development underway	Following consultations with the Working Group and communities, draft training tools for working in aquaculture are being developed and reviewed by community and the Aboriginal Sea Company .

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	units of competency with improved cultural integrity and regional relevance.			
<p>Furnishing Apprenticeship Guidance</p> <p>Visit webpage</p> <p><i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of FurnishingWorks, a part of ForestWorks, as part of our collaborative partnership.</i></p>	Apprenticeship and traineeship completion rates are a concern in many industries, including the furnishing industry. To empower employers in their role to support trainees and apprentices, this project will develop a best-practice guide in consultation with stakeholders. The resulting guidance will be freely available.	Implementation Support Materials Project	Finalised	The Best Practice Guide is now published and freely available via the project webpage and Resources webpage.
<p>Meat Processing Training Resources</p> <p><i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of MINTRAC as part of our collaborative partnership.</i></p>	This project will develop nationally consistent training and assessment resources to support the recently updated Certificate II qualifications and revised units of competency in the meat processing sector. Resources will be developed in consultation with industry stakeholders and RTOs, ensuring alignment with compliance requirements, current practice, and workforce needs.	Implementation Support Materials Project	Project planning	Initial planning and stakeholder mapping underway. Further details and a project webpage will be available soon. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information about the planned scope and timeframes.
<p>Industry Skills Leadership Submissions</p>	Skills Insight submissions reflecting stakeholder guidance on skills issues	Submissions to consultations	Ongoing	Recent submissions or contributions made on:

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	to consultations by major bodies that can influence decision-making.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft National Statement on First Nations in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry • AgriFutures Strategic Analysis of Regional Workforce Pressures in Australian Agriculture <p>Skills Insight will be working with the JSC Stakeholder Forum on identifying priority positions and opportunities over the coming weeks.</p>



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