

SSAPP17 Product Developer

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Apparel
Functional area	Product Design and Development
Job role	SSAPP17 Product Developer
Job role description	Coordinates the development of apparel products from approved design concepts through to production readiness. The Product Developer manages technical specifications, bills of materials, sampling processes and supplier communication to ensure garments are manufacturable, cost-effective and aligned with quality and brand standards. The role works closely with designers, technical designers, patternmakers and offshore factories.
Performance expectations	• Coordinate the development of apparel products from concept to production • Prepare and maintain product specifications and bills of materials • Manage sampling and prototype development with suppliers • Monitor product cost targets and manufacturing feasibility • Collaborate with designers and technical designers on product refinements • Communicate development requirements to offshore manufacturers • Track product development timelines and approvals • Ensure products meet quality, compliance and performance standards
Specialisation	Apparel product development coordination including technical documentation, sampling management and supplier liaison.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Footwear product development coordination • Textile product and fabric development • Uniform and workwear product engineering • Outdoor and performance apparel product development • Accessory and lifestyle product development

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Prepare detailed product development documentation • Develop and manage bills of materials and trim specifications • Coordinate prototype and sample production • Communicate development requirements with suppliers • Monitor garment cost, quality and manufacturability • Track development timelines and product approvals • Support fit reviews and technical revisions • Maintain product lifecycle management systems
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Critical work functions	- Ensuring apparel products move efficiently from design to production - Maintaining accurate product specifications and documentation - Managing communication between internal teams and manufacturers - Ensuring garments meet cost, quality and performance expectations - Supporting efficient sampling and development cycles - Maintaining product development schedules
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3. Technical skills

Product specification management	Maintain detailed product documentation.
Bill of materials development	Define fabrics, trims and components.
Sampling coordination	Manage prototype and development samples.
Cost awareness	Understand garment costing and manufacturing constraints.
Garment construction knowledge	Understand sewing and assembly processes.
Supplier communication	Coordinate development activities with manufacturers.
PLM systems	Use product lifecycle management software.
Quality standards knowledge	Ensure products meet brand and compliance requirements.

4. Generic Skills

Organisation	Manage complex product development documentation.
Communication	Coordinate information between design, sourcing and production teams.
Problem solving	Resolve development and sampling issues.
Collaboration	Work closely with designers, technicians and suppliers.
Attention to detail	Ensure accuracy of product specifications.
Time management	Maintain product development schedules.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Digital product lifecycle management platforms 3D digital product development workflows - Data-driven product cost optimisation - Sustainable materials and product development practices - Integration of digital design and sourcing systems
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles
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Advanced development	MST50122 Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles
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7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Product Development Assistant → Product Developer → Senior Product Developer → Product Development Manager
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 4-5
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 2 - Product Development Specialist
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Product Developer - Apparel



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