

SSAPP21 Research and Development Coordinator

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Apparel
Functional area	Product Design and Development
Job role	SSAPP21 Research and Development Coordinator
Job role description	Coordinates research and development activities that support apparel product innovation, new materials exploration and improvements in garment design and manufacturing processes. The Research and Development Coordinator works with designers, product developers, technical designers, yarn technologists and production teams to investigate new materials, construction techniques and sustainable product solutions relevant to the Australian TCF industry.
Performance expectations	• Coordinate apparel product research and development projects • Investigate new materials, fibres, fabrics and garment technologies • Support experimentation with innovative garment construction methods • Collaborate with designers and product developers on innovation initiatives • Coordinate prototype testing and product trials • Document research findings and technical evaluations • Support sustainable product and material innovation • Maintain R&D project records and development reports
Specialisation	Coordination of innovation, materials research and product experimentation in apparel development.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Technical textile product development • Footwear materials and construction innovation • Protective clothing and performance apparel development • Uniform and workwear product innovation • Advanced textile and fibre development industries

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Plan and coordinate apparel R&D initiatives • Conduct research on emerging materials and garment technologies • Support prototype development for experimental products • Collaborate with product design and technical development teams • Document and evaluate research results
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	• Maintain knowledge of industry innovation trends • Coordinate testing of fabrics, trims and garment components • Support integration of research findings into product development
Critical work functions	• Supporting innovation in apparel product design • Evaluating new materials and construction technologies • Facilitating collaboration between design, development and production teams • Ensuring research findings are documented and applied • Supporting sustainable and responsible product development • Contributing to continuous improvement in garment development processes

3. Technical skills

Textile and material knowledge	Understand properties of fabrics, fibres and yarns.
Garment construction knowledge	Understand garment assembly and manufacturing processes.
Research methods	Conduct product and material testing and evaluation.
Product innovation	Support development of new garment technologies and concepts.
Material testing awareness	Interpret results from fabric and performance tests.
Technical documentation	Prepare reports and records of research outcomes.
Supplier engagement	Work with textile and component suppliers during research.
Industry trend analysis	Monitor innovation trends in global apparel markets.

4. Generic Skills

Analytical thinking	Evaluate technical information and product performance.
Communication	Explain research outcomes to design and development teams.
Collaboration	Work with multidisciplinary product development teams.
Problem solving	Identify opportunities for product and process improvement.
Organisation	Coordinate research projects and maintain documentation.
Curiosity and innovation	Explore emerging technologies and materials.
Analytical thinking	Evaluate technical information and product performance.
Communication	Explain research outcomes to design and development teams.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Bio-based and recycled fibre technologies • Smart textiles and wearable technology integration • Digital product development platforms • Lifecycle assessment for sustainable apparel
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	Advanced textile performance testing methods
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST50122 Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent
Advanced development	MST60122 Advanced Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent and / or bachelor's degree in Textile Technology, Fashion Design, Material Engineering or Product Development.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Product Development Assistant → Research and Development Coordinator → Innovation Manager → Head of Product Innovation
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 5-7
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 2 - Product Development / Textile Technologist
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Research and Development Coordinator - Apparel



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