

# SSALT5 Costume Alteration Specialist – Theatrical Costumes

## 1. Job role

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| TCF sub-sector                   | Clothing and Footwear Repairs and Alterations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Functional area                  | Clothing Alterations and Repairs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Job role                         | SSALT5 Costume Alteration Specialist – Theatrical Costumes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Job role description             | Provides specialist alteration, repair and adaptation services for theatrical, film, television and performance costumes. Responsible for rapid garment modifications, actor fittings and maintenance of costume integrity under performance conditions. Typically engaged in larger studios or specialist costume service enterprises.                                               |
| Performance expectations         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver precise costume fit for performers</li> <li>• Maintain durability under repeated performance use</li> <li>• Adapt garments quickly for cast changes</li> <li>• Preserve original design and creative intent</li> <li>• Meet tight rehearsal and production deadlines</li> <li>• Maintain high-quality finishing standards</li> </ul> |
| Specialisation                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage and theatre costumes</li> <li>• Film and television wardrobe</li> <li>• Dance and performance wear</li> <li>• Period costume reshaping</li> <li>• Quick-change garment adaptations</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                          |
| Application in other TCF sectors | Transferable to costume production, bespoke tailoring, bridal alterations and structured garment reshaping.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## 2. Key tasks and critical work functions

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| Key tasks               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct performer fittings and adjustments</li> <li>• Modify garments to accommodate movement and performance needs</li> <li>• Reinforce seams and stress points</li> <li>• Adapt costumes for quick-change requirements</li> <li>• Repair garments between performances</li> <li>• Collaborate with costume designers and production staff</li> <li>• Conduct final inspection before stage or screen use</li> </ul> |
| Critical work functions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining garment durability under performance conditions</li> <li>• Ensuring flexibility and comfort for performers</li> <li>• Preserving costume design authenticity</li> <li>• Managing rapid turnaround between rehearsals and shows</li> <li>• Maintaining measurement accuracy for cast changes</li> <li>• Working collaboratively within production teams</li> </ul>                                         |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining consistent quality under time pressure</li> <li>• Supporting long-term strategic growth</li> </ul> |
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### 3. Technical skills

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Costume construction knowledge    | Understanding theatrical garment construction. |
| Performance garment adaptation    | Adjusting for movement and choreography.       |
| Reinforcement techniques          | Strengthening seams and stress areas.          |
| Pattern adaptation                | Modifying costume patterns for cast changes.   |
| Fabric knowledge                  | Working with specialty and period textiles.    |
| Rapid alteration techniques       | Fast and accurate garment modification.        |
| Collaboration skills              | Working with designers and wardrobe teams.     |
| Digital production documentation* | Recording costume adjustments digitally.       |

\*Technical skills identified as emerging skills in TCF industry.

### 4. Generic Skills

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|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Adaptability        | Respond quickly to production changes.                   |
| Communication       | Collaborate with creative teams.                         |
| Problem solving     | Resolve unexpected costume issues.                       |
| Time management     | Meet strict rehearsal and show deadlines.                |
| Attention to detail | Maintain costume integrity and fit.                      |
| Teamwork            | Work effectively in performance production environments. |

### 5. Emerging skills

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| Emerging skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable costume reuse and upcycling practices</li> <li>• Digital costume tracking systems</li> <li>• Integration with wardrobe management software</li> <li>• Working with advanced performance fabrics</li> </ul> |
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### 6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Entry-level preparation | MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent.                                           |
| Advanced development    | MST40222 Certificate IV in Apparel and Fashion or MST50122 Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent. |

### 7. Job progression

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| Possible job progression | Senior Alterations Specialist → Wardrobe Alteration Specialist → Costume Workshop Supervisor |
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### 8. Classification

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| Australian Qualifications Framework                            | AQF Level 4-5 (enterprise dependent)             |
| Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels             | Skill Level 3 - Trades                           |
| Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA) | Costume Technician / Tailor - Theatrical context |



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