

Skills Insight Update

July 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 our work. You can also find news through [our website](#) and [news alerts](#).

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 will be released end of August	The draft Workforce Plan 2026-27 has undergone broad stakeholder review and was submitted to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) on 30 April. It is being prepared for publication, to be officially released 27 August.
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	Two co-designed project outputs will contribute to improving rural, regional, and remote attraction and retention. The first is a Workforce Development Playbook and the second is a First Nations pilot program that is being developed to strengthen pathways into the VET workforce and build internal capacity for culturally grounded training and guidance. Reporting on all three phases of the project will be on our website soon.

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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 important that nationally endorsed veterinary nursing qualifications and related training package products align with the full range of contexts and job tasks required.	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 received.
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	Broad consultation	The draft Ag Trade Apprenticeship qualification and associated units are available for feedback from 1 July to 31 August 2026. There is also the opportunity to attend an in-person or online consultation session to understand the purpose of the qualification, view the draft and provide feedback.
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 Project	Finalisation	The draft qualification is being finalised to incorporate stakeholder feedback and will be distributed for Technical Committee review shortly. The final draft products are due to be forwarded to Senior Responsible Officers (SROs) for their sign-off during August.

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	Training Package Organising Framework (TPOF) 2025.			
AMP Retail Butchers and Smallgoods Project Visit webpage <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of MINTRAC as part of our collaborative partnership.</i>	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 trade roles, regulatory requirements, visa eligibility and skill needs.	Training Package Project	Moving to development	A workforce functional analysis (WFA) has been completed and published to confirm current trade roles, regulatory requirements, visa eligibility and skill needs. It is providing the evidence base for reviewing and revising training package products which will be available for Broad Consultation in September 2026.
AMP Meat Processing Pathways Project Visit webpage <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of MINTRAC as part of our collaborative partnership.</i>	Training package products related to the Certificate III meat processing qualifications are being reviewed and revised to better reflect industry needs and training package requirements.	Training Package Project	Moving to development	Development of draft products is currently underway. They will be available for Broad Consultation in September 2026.
MSF Specialist Skills for Glass and Glazing <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of FurnishingWorks, a part of ForestWorks, as part of</i>	The Certificate II and Certificate III in Glass and Glazing will be revised to include emerging specialised skills across advanced manufacturing, processing, and specialised installation sectors.	Training Package Project	Project planning	*New project. Further details and a project webpage will be available once the project officially commences in August 2026. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information about the planned scope and timeframes.

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our collaborative partnership.				
MST Textile Flooring Manufacturing Pathway Visit webpage This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of TextileWorks, a part of ForestWorks, as part of our collaborative partnership.	The Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles will be updated with a textile flooring manufacturing stream to create a clear entry pathway and support the sector's workforce.	Training Package Project	Moving to Development	Engagement with stakeholders and the Technical Committee is underway to produce the updated draft qualification.
RGR Improved Training Pathways and Safety in Racing Visit webpage	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.	Training Package Project	Skills review underway	A national skills review is underway to build an understanding of current skills and job roles and their alignment to qualifications. Stakeholders attended online information sessions in June and are contributing to a survey that is open until 31 July 2026.
Animal Technology Skills Review	Stakeholder feedback and usage data indicate the Certificate III and Diploma of Animal Technology may no longer meet current workplace needs. This project will undertake a Skills Review to	Research Project	Project planning	*New project. Further details and a project webpage will be available when the project officially commences late 2026/early 2027. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information

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	evaluate their ongoing relevance, investigate workforce requirements, and make recommendations on their future structure.			about the planned scope and timeframes.
Australia's Biosecurity - Skills Review Visit webpage	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.	Research Project	Research and consultation	Surveys, interviews, focus group sessions and site visits are now commencing to collect the detailed information needed to identify required skills and where those skills may be found. This work will take approximately four months, including collation of findings. The work is being undertaken by Skills Insight, Public Skills Australia, ForestWorks and MINTRAC.
Growth Skills Unification Skills Review	This activity will undertake a Skills Review of Certificate II qualifications within the <i>AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package</i> that support entry into the green sector workforce. Through research and national consultation with industry stakeholders, the review will examine qualification structures, areas of overlap, gaps and pathways. The findings will provide an evidence base to inform future training product	Research Project	Project planning	*New project. Further details and a project webpage will be available when the project officially commences later this year. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information about the planned scope and timeframes.

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	decisions and alignment with workforce needs and Qualification Reform objectives.			
Emerging Skills for Conservation and Ecosystem Management	Conservation work is evolving due to cultural, environmental and policy drivers, including the 2050 Net Zero target and the '30 by 30' commitment to protect and conserve 30% of Australia's land and marine areas by 2030. This project will map how skills requirements are changing and provide evidence to inform future training, workforce planning and policy decisions.	Research Project	Project planning	*New project. Further details and a project webpage will be available when the project officially commences late 2026/early 2027. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information about the planned scope and timeframes.
Engineered Wood Products Skills Review	As the timber processing industry shifts towards engineered wood products (EWPs), the VET system must ensure workers can develop the skills needed to manufacture and work with EWPs. This project will review the skills and training needs associated with EWPs and make recommendations on qualifications, recognition of prior learning (RPL) and training delivery.	Research Project	Project planning	*New project. Further details and a project webpage will be available when the project officially commences late 2026/early 2027. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information about the planned scope and timeframes.
Landscaping Skills Review Visit webpage	Skills Insight and state landscaping associations are leading this project to identify and map landscaping job titles,	Research Project	Consultation and Interim report underway	An interim Skills Review Report has been developed, presenting findings to date. Stakeholder insights have

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	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.			been collected through an online survey and the project team are attending upcoming industry events to collect further feedback, including The Landscape Show (VIC) and The Landscape Association Expo (NSW).
Regional, Rural and Remote VET Policy Decision Making Visit webpage	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	Griffith University is currently establishing a potential frame for decision guidance, incorporating a wide variety of data as identified in the <i>Exploring Training Demand and Supply Challenges</i> study published in 2025 and available on the Skills Insight website. Work continues on identifying potential tools, including the use of AI to guide decisions.
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</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	Research Project	Moving to Finalisation	Detailed Skills Profiles have been created for job roles across industry, along with a Skills and Occupation Mapping Guide. Feedback on the documents is currently being considered as the project moves into its final stages.

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<i>ForestWorks, as part of our collaborative partnership.</i>	will be used alongside existing data to provide a view of industry skills and occupations.			
Textile Mechanic Skills Pathway Review <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 investigate the training pathway and supply barriers impacting textile mechanics within Australia's Textiles, Clothing and Footwear sector. The relevant qualification currently has no active RTO delivery despite a critical shortage of textile mechanics, with only a small number operating in each state with many nearing retirement. This project will evaluate current workforce demand, explore systemic constraints to training delivery, and identify viable delivery models to secure this critical specialist capability.	Research Project	Project planning	*New project. Further details and a project webpage will be available when the project officially commences late 2026/early 2027. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information about the planned scope and timeframes.
Flock Safe Visit webpage <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of MINTRAC as part of our collaborative partnership.</i>	The avian influenza outbreak highlighted the importance of skills to care for individual flocks in protecting 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.	Pilot Project	Finished	National workshops were delivered throughout 2025 and early 2026, and were followed by post-workshop check-ins to assess training outcomes. A final report has been submitted to DEWR with recommendations and findings and has been published on the Skills Insight website.

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Mapping Animal Care and Management Licensing and Regulatory Considerations Visit webpage	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	Finished	The resource and report have been submitted to DEWR and are published on the Skills Insight website for download.
Mapping of Workplace Training to Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Qualifications Visit webpage <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of ForestWorks as part of our collaborative partnership.</i>	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	Finalisation	A final report and mapping tool have been submitted to DEWR. The report analyses how workplace training aligns with the <i>PPM30121 Certificate III in Pulp and Paper Operations</i>, identifies gaps, and outlines a national skills recognition pathway for the sector.
New Entrants as Sewing Machinists Visit webpage	This project looks to develop a nationally scalable training model to support delivery of the Industrial Sewing Skill Set, attract new entrants	Pilot Project	Project planning	Consultation and planning has commenced. A project Working Group has been formed to guide

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<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>	and support priority cohorts, including women and culturally diverse learners.			consultation and the development of a training model.
Worker Safety Induction Pilot Visit webpage <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of MINTRAC as part of our collaborative partnership.</i>	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 modules and testing the modules with the project steering committee.	Pilot Project	Pilot complete	A final report has been produced outlining findings and recommendations, including advice for program implementation. The learning materials will be available to access on completion of user acceptance testing.
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	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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	organisations (RTOs) to deliver existing units of competency with improved cultural integrity and regional relevance.			
Implementation support for Vet Nursing Training	This project will deliver targeted support for RTOs and workplaces implementing updated veterinary nursing training products developed under qualification reform. The project will identify common delivery pain points and provide practical support sessions and resources to streamline processes and support consistent, high-quality delivery.	Implementation Support Materials Project	Project planning	*New project. Further details and a project webpage will be available when the project officially commences late 2026/early 2027. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information about the planned scope and timeframes.
Meat Processing Training Resources <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of MINTRAC as part of our collaborative partnership.</i>	This project will develop nationally consistent training and assessment resources to support the recently updated Certificate II qualifications and revised units of competency. 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.
Industry Skills Leadership Submissions	Skills Insight submissions reflecting stakeholder guidance on skills issues to	Submissions to consultations	Ongoing	Skills Insight presented to the Senate Committee on Productivity on 28 July, focusing on issues related to training

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	consultations by major bodies that can influence decision-making.			delivery in regional, remote and rural areas. The Skills Insight submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the factors driving educational attainment has been released and is available on the Skills Insight website, as well as the Parliamentary Committee site. Jobs and Skills Australia is working with all JSCs on the National Skills Taxonomy in the context of qualifications reform. Skills Insight continues to work with Forum Members on priority positions and opportunities.



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