

Skills Insight Update

August 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 was released 27 August	The Workforce Plan 2026-2027 was officially launched by the Hon. Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training at an industry event held at Melbourne Polytechnic.
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	Project report and Workforce Development Playbook in final stages of development	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 phases of the project will be on our website soon.
ACM Veterinary Nursing Review	There is a growing demand for broader skills to provide essential care and treatment to animals across	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

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Visit webpage	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.			and technical nature 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 Organising Framework (TPOF) 2025.	Training Package Project	Finalisation	The draft qualification has been finalised to incorporate stakeholder feedback and is being signed off by the Technical Committee after which the materials will be forwarded to Senior Responsible Officers (SROs) for their support.

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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 broad consultation	A workforce functional analysis (WFA) has been completed and published to confirm current trade roles, regulatory requirements, visa eligibility and skill needs. It is contributing to the evidence base for reviewing and revising training package products which will be available for Broad Consultation in September 2026, supported by a series of online and in-person consultation workshops.
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 broad consultation	Development of draft products is currently underway. They will be available for Broad Consultation in September 2026, supported by a series of online and in-person consultation workshops.
MSF Specialist Skills for Glass and Glazing Visit webpage <i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of FurnishingWorks, a 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. A Technical Committee is being established to guide the project and inform the Terms of Reference and Consultation Strategy. Once finalised, these documents will be available on the project webpage.

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ForestWorks, as part of 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	Development	Engagement with stakeholders and the Technical Committee is underway to produce the updated draft qualification and two new skill sets. They will be available for Broad Consultation in September 2026.
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 contributed to a Skills Review survey between May and August 2026. The Working Group are currently validating those findings. Stakeholders will be invited to provide feedback on the purposes of each qualification through a series of surveys soon.

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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 evaluate their ongoing relevance, investigate workforce requirements, and make recommendations on their future structure.	Research Project	Project planning	*New project. Further details and a project webpage will be available when the project officially commences late 2026. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information 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. Targeted consultation is taking place throughout August and September across project delivery partners, including 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	Research Project	Project planning	*New project. Further details and a project webpage will be available when the project officially commences later 2026. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information about the planned scope and timeframes.

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	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 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 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	Research Project	Project planning	*New project. Further details and a project webpage will be available when the project officially commences late 2026. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information about the planned scope and timeframes.

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	qualifications, recognition of prior learning (RPL) and training delivery.			
Landscaping Skills Review Visit webpage	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.	Research Project	Consultation underway	An interim Skills Review Report has been developed, presenting findings to date. Stakeholders around the country are being consulted on current job roles, skills needs and regulations to develop a holistic view of the industry.
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	Research underway	Griffith University is drafting an initial version of the feasibility study and completing review of available decision-making support systems capable of integrating and analysing multiple data sets. They have identified available and relevant data sets from the <i>Exploring Training Demand and Supply Challenges</i> study published in 2025 and available on the Skills Insight website.
Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Skills Mapping Project Visit webpage	This project will identify current and emerging skill needs, career pathways, transferable skills, and gaps in training provision. Insights from this work can	Research Project	Finalisation	Detailed Skills Profiles have been created for job roles across industry, along with a Skills and Occupation Mapping Guide. Stakeholder

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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>	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.			feedback has been incorporated into the documents, which are currently undergoing final quality checks as part of the finalisation stage.
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. View the Annual Activity Plan for more information about the planned scope and timeframes.
Mapping of Workplace Training to Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Qualifications Visit webpage	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	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

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<i>This Skills Insight JSC project is being managed with the support of ForestWorks as part of our collaborative partnership.</i>	pathway for formal skills recognition and workforce growth.			gaps, and outlines a national skills recognition pathway for the sector.
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>	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.	Pilot Project	Project planning	Consultation and planning has commenced. A project Working Group has been formed to guide 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 during September.

Activity	Description	Type	Status	Comments
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 units of competency with improved cultural integrity and regional relevance.	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.
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	This project will develop nationally consistent training and assessment	Implementation Support	Project planning	Initial planning and stakeholder mapping underway. Further details

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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>	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.	Materials Project		and a project webpage will be available soon.
Industry Skills Leadership Submissions	Skills Insight submissions reflecting stakeholder guidance on skills issues to consultations by major bodies that can influence decision-making.	Submissions to consultations	Ongoing	Skills Insight presented to the Senate Committee on Productivity on 28 July, focusing on issues related to training delivery in regional, remote and rural areas. We responded to follow-up questions on notice. Jobs and Skills Australia provided an update to JSCs on initial piloting for the National Skills Taxonomy. Skills Insight raised questions about the inclusion of safety and risk considerations in the taxonomy, to ensure skills are not seen as transferable in more high-risk contexts. Skills Insight continues to work with Forum Members on priority positions and opportunities.



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