

SSAPP06 Designer – Knitwear

Disclaimer

These Occupational Frameworks and Skill Profiles have been developed as workforce planning, occupational mapping and skills reference resources for the Australian textile, clothing and footwear (TCF) industry. They are intended to describe the typical functions, responsibilities, skills and capabilities associated with occupations across the industry.

These documents are not intended to replace or override industrial instruments or employment arrangements, including awards, enterprise agreements, employment contracts, position descriptions, classification structures, licensing or regulatory requirements, or other statutory obligations. Where differences arise, the relevant industrial, legislative or regulatory requirements take precedence. The Skill Profiles should be used as complementary reference documents to support workforce planning, career development, training and skills recognition.

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Apparel
Functional area	Product Design and Development
Job role	SSAPP06 Designer – Knitwear
Job role description	Designs knitted apparel products including sweaters, cardigans, knit dresses and other knitwear garments. The Knitwear Designer develops creative concepts, stitch structures and yarn selections that define the aesthetic and technical performance of knitted garments. The role collaborates with yarn technologists, product developers, technical designers and knit technicians to ensure knitwear designs are manufacturable and aligned with brand identity and market demand.
Performance expectations	• Develop knitwear design concepts for seasonal collections. • Specify stitch structures, yarn types and knit constructions. • Create technical design documentation for knitwear garments. • Collaborate with product developers and knit technicians. • Review knitwear prototypes and development samples. • Ensure knitwear products align with brand aesthetic and target markets. • Refine designs based on sampling and technical feedback. • Maintain accurate design files and knit specifications.
Specialisation	Design of knitted garments including stitch pattern development, yarn selection and knit construction.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Knit textile design and fabric development. • Sportswear and performance knitwear design. • Technical knitted textiles and engineered knit structures. • Uniform and workwear knitwear products. • Footwear knitted uppers and technical knit components.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Research knitwear fashion trends and yarn innovations. • Develop knitwear garment concepts and silhouettes. • Specify stitch structures and knit patterns. • Select yarns and materials for knitwear products. • Prepare knitwear technical design documentation. • Review prototypes and development samples. • Collaborate with knit technicians and product developers. • Maintain knitwear design documentation and libraries.
Critical work functions	• Translating design concepts into knit structures and yarn specifications. • Ensuring knitwear designs are technically feasible for production. • Maintaining alignment between creative design and technical knit capability. • Supporting efficient collaboration between design and knit production teams. • Maintaining quality and consistency across knitwear collections. • Contributing to commercially successful knitwear ranges.

3. Technical skills

Knitwear design techniques	Develop knit garment silhouettes and styling.
Stitch structure knowledge	Specify knit patterns, gauges and stitch structures.
Yarn selection	Select yarns appropriate for garment performance and aesthetics.
Knitwear CAD tools	Use knit design software or digital design tools.
Garment construction awareness	Understand knitwear assembly and finishing methods.
Technical specification preparation	Prepare knitwear design specifications.
Trend analysis	Interpret fashion and knitwear market trends.
Product development collaboration	Work with knit technicians and developers.

4. Generic Skills

Creativity	Develop original knitwear design concepts.
Communication	Explain knitwear concepts to technical teams.
Collaboration	Work with yarn technologists and knit technicians.
Problem solving	Resolve knit structure or yarn challenges.
Attention to detail	Ensure accuracy of knit specifications.
Time management	Deliver knitwear designs within seasonal timelines.
Team work	Collaborate with members of design and production team.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Digital knit programming and design integration. • 3D knitwear visualisation tools. • Whole-garment and seamless knitting design. • Sustainable yarn and fibre innovation. • Digital product development for knitwear.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	Diploma or Advanced Diploma in Fashion Design, Textile Design or Knitwear Design.
Advanced development	Bachelor level study in Fashion Design, Textile Design or Knitwear Technology.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Design Assistant → Knitwear Designer → Senior Knitwear Designer → Head of Design
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 5-7
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 1
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	242231 Fashion Designer



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