

Communique

Meeting No: 2018.01
Date: 8 February 2018

The Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met in Melbourne on Thursday 8 February 2018. All IRC members were present, as were Skills Impact staff, and guests from two of the State Industry Training Advisory Bodies. The following issues were discussed and decided.

The minutes from the meeting of Thursday 8th December 2017 were accepted, the register of interests was discussed and two further identified issues were added. The register of actions arising from the last meeting was considered and are all either completed or in progress.

Funding for a full audit of skills required within the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry was discussed and an application to Department of Education and Training (DET) will be organised. A report on the qualifications review project was given. The final draft of the redesigned pharmaceutical manufacturing qualifications and units of competency are now on the Skills Impact website for review and comment.

The Memorandum of Understanding between this IRC and Skills Impact was agreed and will be signed and submitted to AISC shortly.

The Industry Skills Forecast for 2018-2021 was discussed and three priorities were agreed. These will be described in detail in the Industry Skills Forecast document. The generic work skills survey will be finalised and shared before included in the Industry Skills Forecast document.

There was some discussion about which IRC addresses the skills needs for the MedTech industry. Some aspects of this field are relevant to this IRC and the ongoing convergence of different aspects of this industry mean that confusion between them may result in the skills needed to manufacture medical devices risk being overlooked in the current SSO system. This convergence and confusion will be raised with the Department of Education and Training and clarification will be sought.

There are still vacancies in the membership of this IRC. Appropriate people and organisations who could become members will continue to be approached by other members and Skills Impact.

Engaging RTOs in the work of the IRC and the review of the qualifications will be a focus in future IRC activities. To encourage others within this industry to engage with this work, a LinkedIn page for this IRC has been created and will be used to share information and invite members of the industry to engage in our activities.

The next meeting of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing IRC will be a teleconference on Wednesday 7th March 2pm – 4pm, focussing on the Industry Skills Forecast.