

Communique

Meeting No: 2018.02
8 March 2018

The Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met at the Park Royal Hotel at Melbourne Airport on 8 March 2018. Present at the meeting were members and guests including several representatives from State and Territory ITABs/ITACs.

Issues

Skills Impact provided an update on the progress of the following actions:

- Poultry meat processing units have moved to the Meat Processing Training Package
- The Wine Operations project has been extended to undertake further consultation
- Changes to sugar milling components are progressing through consultative stages.
- Some SUG02 units that are still in use will be retired.

IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work 2018-2021

The key priorities identified for work to be undertaken in 2018 include:

- Bioprocessing Technologies
- Artisanal Cheese Making
- Brewing and Distilling
- Food and Beverage Fermentation

The draft document will be loaded onto the Skills Impact website for public consultation.

Food Science and Technology project: Divided feedback on status of the microbiological techniques unit

The feedback from industry and RTOs about one unit (FBPFST5006 Apply food microbiological techniques and analysis) within the Diploma of Food Science and Technology is divided between those who want the unit listed as a core and those who want it in the elective bank. The FBP IRC decided that in the national interests of the food and beverage processing industries, the unit should be a core subject in this qualification.

Updating unit codes in existing FBP qualifications and skill sets to ensure currency

The FBP IRC approved minor updates to the coding of units listed in components of the FBP Training Package on training.gov.au. This will ensure all FBP components will refer to the most up-to-date units of competency.

Report from IRC Chairs meeting

Ian Curry provided a report of the chairs meeting of 21 February 2018, describing some of the issues discussed and the content of the professional development activities undertaken. Some items of discussion included:

- Governance of cross sector projects
- Usefulness of the generic skills priority task
- Low level of PD activity

Project Report

Skills Impact provided a progress report of the Food Science and Technology project and the Wine Operations project. The former has now been through the public validation stage and is being prepared for the editing and QA processes. An extension of time for completion of the Wine Operations project has been requested of the AISC so that further consultation can occur.

Sign-off for IRC response to Departmental proposals

The reports drafted after the teleconference discussing *“Training Product Reform: what is the case for change?”* and *“Addressing issues relating to unduly short courses”* were both approved as this IRC’s response.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical IRC is expected to be held during the week of 16 – 24 April 2018.