

## Communique

Meeting No: 2018.01  
15 January 2018

The Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met via teleconference on 15 January 2018. Present at the meeting were members and guests including several representatives from State and Territory ITABs/ITACs.

### **Key Generic Skills – Priority Survey**

The AISC requires all IRCs to prioritise thirteen generic key work skills in the order that members consider important to their industries. A survey asking members of both this IRC and the members of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing IRC has been drafted and will be sent for completion this week. Results will be collated and included in the *Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work 2018 – 2021*.

### **IRC Vacancies**

There have been several changes to the committee membership. The IRC discussed the process for filling vacancies.

### **IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work 2018- 2021**

The issues that were recently identified and those carried over from last year were discussed for inclusion in the Skills Forecast. It was decided that three industry-specific issues will be listed as priorities to be addressed and nine more generic issues be listed as important to the food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries as well as relating to many different industries. The three industry specific issues are: artisanal cheese making, brewing and distilling and food and beverage fermentation. The cross-sector issues include: sustainability and energy consumption; food fraud; automation, digitisation and robotics; traceability of product; innovation in product development and packaging; work health and safety; strategic planning and management skills; supply chain management skills; online sales and customer service skills.

The Skills Forecast document will now be drafted and circulated to IRC members before the next meeting at which the members will consider whether it is ready to be presented for public consultation.

The next meeting of the Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical IRC is expected to be held in early March 2018.