

Communique

Meeting No: 2018.04
20 July 2018

The Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met via teleconference on 20 July 2018. Present at the meeting were members and guests including representatives from State and Territory ITABs/ITACs.

Issues and Actions

The role this IRC plays within the medical technology field was discussed and members agreed that the skill needs for this type of work should be addressed by this IRC due to close ties between both types of manufacturing. The IRC will pursue this issue to have the Department of Education and Training and the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) clarify whether this work falls into their sphere or in the Manufacturing and Engineering IRC.

Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Training Package Version 2 Case for Endorsement

The *FBP Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Training Package Version 2.0* was, at the time of this meeting, waiting for State/Territory Training Authorities (STAs/TTAs) approval before being submitted to the AISC. It is expected that the training package will be endorsed at the AISC meeting on 14 August 2018.

The proposed dates of the release of the revised pharmaceutical manufacturing qualifications were discussed. It was suggested that Skills Impact approach AusBioTech to launch the newly revised qualifications at their conference in October 2018.

Response from Department of Education and Training about survey of pharmaceutical manufacturers

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) presented their plan for developing a survey tool that will be trialled with the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry. NCVER officers will consult members of this IRC further to develop this tool.

Project Brief for BioProcessing Technologies project

The draft project brief for the BioProcessing Technologies Project was presented and discussed. This IRC wants to defer this project until 2019.

Reasons for this include:

- The forthcoming NCVER data collection.
- The current inability of key stakeholders to work on this project
- Concurrent projects by Skills Impact and other SSOs
- The need for a more in-depth environmental scan
- The need to encourage uptake of the newly revised Pharmaceutical Manufacturing qualifications before creating a new qualification.

Skills Impact will approach the Department of Education and Training to discuss deferring this project.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing IRC is expected to be held in November 2018.