

Parks and Gardens Project

Summary of Validation Feedback, Responses and Actions

25 June 2021



This project includes the review of four qualifications and 20 units of competency within the Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management Training Package. The final draft materials were developed as a result of feedback provided by stakeholders and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) during the validation period 7 to 21 June 2021.

A validation meeting was held on the 25 June 2021 at which all documents were validated.

Validation feedback was also received from a variety of stakeholders around the country via the online feedback hub, webinars, and via phone call and email. The table below provides an overview of the groups and jurisdictions that have provided feedback during this phase of the project.

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	National
Industry (employer / employee)									
Industry association									
Union									
Registered Training Organisation (RTO)									
Government department									

Please note that stakeholders from all states/territories were involved in this project but no stakeholders from the NT, SA or Tas provided feedback during the validation phase. The Australian Workers Union was provided with information about the project and given the opportunity to provide feedback but did not provide feedback during the validation phase.

Below is a summary of the issues raised for the draft qualifications and units of competency reviewed for the Parks and Gardens Project, and how these issues have been dealt with. This involves a consideration of the information provided, views of industry stakeholders and from people who are part of the Subject Matter Expert Working Group (SMEWG) process. Resolutions are constructed to consider the needs and views of stakeholders to the extent possible, and to comply with the Standards for Training Package 2012. The resolutions may represent a compromise on one or more stakeholder views with the aim of a workable outcome for industry, State and Territory Training Authorities (STAs) and training providers.

Acronyms - PC – performance criteria, PE – performance evidence, KE – knowledge evidence, AC – assessment conditions, SMEs – Subject Matter Experts, AQF – Australian Qualifications Framework, SMEWG – Subject Matter Expert Working Group, IRC – Industry Reference Committee, AHCLM – Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping, Conservation and Land Management

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Summary of validation feedback on Qualifications

Revised qualifications

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
AHC20621 Certificate II in Parks and Gardens (formerly AHC20616 Certificate II in Parks and Gardens)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHC31021 Certificate III in Parks and Gardens (formerly AHC21016 Certificate III in Parks and Gardens)		
RTO, QLD	<p>There's a significant issue with the attempted validation of AHC31XX21 Parks and Gardens and the core unit AHCMOM304.</p> <p>You'll see the email trail below, where we were specifically advised of the following - Question 1. In the Range of conditions, we must inspect engine oil.</p> <p>In the range of condition statement this unit under Machinery and equipment must include at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hydraulic equipment • stationary engines • spraying equipment • mulching and chipping equipment • powered trailers • three point linkage equipment. <p>None appear to specify a 2 stroke engine, therefore checking and mixing two (2) stroke fuel would not meet the assessment requirements to inspect engine oil.</p> <p>A more suitable unit in the AHC Training Package using equipment with a two stroke engine would be "AHCMOM203 Operate basic machinery and equipment (Release 2)".</p> <p>The responses listed suggest the several RTO's and Industry on page 7 which are in conflict with the advice given here.</p> <p>We stopped delivering the unit due to the advice given. as ASQA std's require us to follow the details on TGA.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback, which has been noted. The SMEWG have considered this feedback and advised that AHCMOM304 Operate machinery and equipment is an appropriate core unit for the Certificate III in Parks and Gardens. It was also noted that a stationary engine may be a 2 or 4 stroke engine, and that the Range of Conditions 'Pre operational checks must include: engine oil" is conducted as described in the operation and maintenance manual for the machinery and equipment.</p> <p>This issue was also considered by the AHCLM IRC who following a discussion agreed with the SMEWGs decision and unanimously supported retaining AHCMOM304 unit as a core unit in the Certificate III Parks and Gardens qualification and the AHCMOM203 unit as a core unit in the Certificate II Parks and Gardens qualification. The IRC also agreed with the SMEWG that Certificate III Parks and Gardens learners need to operate more complex machinery at Trade level within the workplace.</p>

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
	<p>Could you please review the qualification prior to validation and if it is going to proceed as is, could you please provide advice in writing retracting the initial advice that was given and confirming that the mixing of 2 stroke fuel is suffice?</p>	
RTO, QLD	<p>Please refer to advice that came directly from skills impact dated 14/4/2020 Question 1. In the Range of conditions, we must inspect engine oil. In the range of condition statement this unit under Machinery and equipment must include at least one of the following: hydraulic equipment stationary engines spraying equipment mulching and chipping equipment powered trailers three point linkage equipment. None appear to specify a 2 stroke engine, therefore checking and mixing two (2) stroke fuel would not meet the assessment requirements to inspect engine oil. A more suitable unit in the AHC Training Package using equipment with a two stroke engine would be "AHCMOM203 Operate basic machinery and equipment The feedback document says that a number of RTO's are in fact doing this - clearly there is an issue between how it's written and how industry interprets the requirements.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback, which has been noted. The SMEWG have considered this feedback and advised that AHCMOM304 Operate machinery and equipment is an appropriate core unit for the Certificate III in Parks and Gardens. It was also noted that a stationary engine may be a 2 or 4 stroke engine, and that the Range of Conditions 'Pre operational checks must include: engine oil" is conducted as described in the operation and maintenance manual for the machinery and equipment.</p> <p>This issue was also considered by the AHCLM IRC who following a discussion agreed with the SMEWG decision and unanimously supported retaining AHCMOM304 unit as a core unit in the Certificate III Parks and Gardens qualification and the AHCMOM203 unit as a core unit in the Certificate II Parks and Gardens qualification. The IRC also agreed with the SMEWG that Certificate III Parks and Gardens learners need to operate more complex machinery at Trade level within the workplace.</p>
Government, WA	<p>Certificate III in Parks and Gardens contains elective units which have been superseded: • AHCNAR301 - Maintain natural areas - superseded by AHCECR301 - Maintain native ecosystem areas • AHCNAR303 - Implement revegetation works – superseded by AHCECR303 - Implement biological reintroduction works • AHPCPM304 - Report on health and condition of trees – superseded by AHPCPM307 - Report on health and condition of trees</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback, which has been adopted. The following changes have been made to the qualification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'AHCNAR301 Maintain natural areas'</i> replaced with <i>'AHCECR301 Maintain native ecosystem areas'</i> • <i>'AHCNAR303 Implement revegetation works'</i> replaced with <i>'AHCECR303 Implement biological reintroduction works'</i> • <i>'AHPCPM304 Report on health and condition of trees'</i> replaced with <i>'AHPCPM307 Report on health and condition of trees'</i>

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated with the following change made: AHC PGD305 Conduct operational inspection of park facilities move from core to elective units and adjust packaging rules accordingly.	Thank you for your feedback, which has been adopted. The following change has been made to the qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHC PGD305 Conduct operational inspection of park facilities moved from core to elective units and packaging rules adjusted.

Proposed qualifications for deletion

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
AHC40516 Certificate IV in Parks and Gardens		
RTO, VIC	Regarding the deletion of the two qualifications – AHC40516 Certificate IV in Parks and Gardens and AHC50716 Diploma of Parks and Gardens. Will there be any units left orphaned in the process or do all the units appear in other current qualifications?	Thank you for your feedback, which has been noted. The AQF4 and AQF5 Parks and Gardens units appear in other current qualifications. As such these units will not become orphaned units as a result of the deletion of these two qualifications.
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Delete	Adopted
IRC Meeting	Delete	Adopted
AHC50716 Diploma of Parks and Gardens		
RTO, VIC	Regarding the deletion of the two qualifications – AHC40516 Certificate IV in Parks and Gardens and AHC50716 Diploma of Parks and Gardens. Will there be any units left orphaned in the process or do all the units appear in other current qualifications?	Thank you for your feedback, which has been noted. The AQF4 and AQF5 Parks and Gardens units appear in other current qualifications. As such these units will not become orphaned units as a result of the deletion of these two qualifications.
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Delete	Adopted
IRC Meeting	Delete	Adopted

Summary of validation feedback on Units of Competency

Revised units of competency

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
AHCPGD102 Support gardening work (formerly AHCPGD101 Support gardening work)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD207 Plant trees and shrubs (formerly AHCPGD201 Plant trees and shrubs)		
RTO, WA	<p>Recommends adding new Element 6 and PCs as follows:</p> <p>E6 Seasonal planting and plant recommendations</p> <p>6.1 Identify the best season for planting shrubs and small trees in Perth region (identifying best season for planting according to the local region)</p> <p>6.2 Display the knowledge of "seasonal Planting"</p> <p>6.3 Choose plants for different seasons Eg- winter flowering plants for winter, summer flowering plants for summer</p> <p>6.4 Choose waterwise plants for plant projects</p> <p>6.4 Recommend plants for different conditions Eg- waterwise plants for sandy soils, hardy and low maintenance plants for parks & gardens, Child friendly plants for schools & day care centres</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback, which has been noted.</p> <p>The SMEWG have considered this feedback and advised that this is an AQF2 level unit and the addition of this content would go beyond the industry expectation of an AQF2 level graduate.</p>
RTO, WA	<p>In a classroom situation this would be difficult, there is only so much planting that can be done with potted plants or bare rooted stock on a campus ground. Tubestock is no problem as you can take them off campus to plant for revegetation programs. We are talking about approximately 20 students being assessed on their planting skills at least on three occasions with potted plants is unrealistic as they need practice before actual planting. That's 60 potted plants or bare rooted stock each semester.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback, which has been noted.</p> <p>The SMEWG have considered this feedback and advised that this task could be undertaken in teams/groups particularly when planting potted plants or bare rooted stock, and that three occasions as defined in the performance evidence of the unit is a realistic expectation of a student being assessed.</p>
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD208 Prepare and maintain plant displays (formerly AHCPGD202 Prepare and maintain plant displays)		

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO, WA	Document approved in validation	Noted
RTO, VIC	Re PCs 3.2 and 3.3 - Some knowledge evidence required to support these PCs	Thank you for your feedback, which has been adopted and additional knowledge evidence added to support PCs 3.2 and 3.3. Knowledge Evidence: now includes 'planting techniques for annual bed displays'.
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD209 Prune shrubs and small trees (formerly AHCPGD203 Prune shrubs and small trees)		
RTO, WA	Document approved in validation	Noted
RTO, WA	Recommends adding new Element 4 and PCs as follows: E4 Identify different forms of plants 4.1 Identify different forms of plants (growth habits of Plants) - tree, shrub, ground cover, vine, grass/herbaceous perennial 4.2 Identify the flowering season of plants - Ex- Australian natives, roses, tropical fruit trees, stone fruits, grapes 4.3 Identify evergreen plants and deciduous plants 4.4 Identify annual, biennial & perennial plants 4.4 Check the overall health of the plants before applying any pruning activities	Thank you for your feedback, which has been noted. The SMEWG have considered this feedback and advised that there is a separate unit ' <i>AHCPCM204 Recognise plants</i> ' that covers this level of knowledge on plants and as such including this content in the unit would be a duplication of content covered in AHPCM204.
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD210 Transplant shrubs and small trees (formerly AHCPGD204 Transplant small trees)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD212 Conduct visual inspection of park facilities (formerly AHCPGD206 Conduct visual inspection of park facilities)		

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO, VIC	This unit does not have wide currency in the industry. It applies to a relatively small number of staff within organizations like Councils who are responsible for park facilities. The majority of gardeners operate either in private gardens or maintain landscapes for commercial or industrial clients. They are not involved in conducting inspections of park facilities. Core units should have widespread application to the industry, not to a specific group largely employed by councils.	Thank you for your feedback, which has been noted. This unit is in the elective units list for the Certificate II in Parks and Gardens.
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD307 Implement a plant establishment program (formerly AHCPGD301 Implement a plant establishment program)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD308 Plan and maintain plant displays (formerly AHCPGD302 Plan and maintain plant displays)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD309 Perform specialist amenity pruning (formerly AHCPGD303 Perform specialist amenity pruning)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD310 Implement a landscape maintenance program (formerly AHCPGD304 Implement a landscape maintenance program)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD311 Conduct operational inspection of park facilities (formerly AHCPGD305 Conduct operational inspection of park facilities)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD312 Implement a maintenance program for an aquatic environment (formerly AHCPGD306 Implement a maintenance program for an aquatic environment)		

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO, WA	I believe this element 3.5 is difficult to implement practically due to lack of resources, equipment and timing. Is it possible to do a mock scenario?	Thank you for your feedback, which has been noted. The SMEWG have considered the feedback and advised that this unit should be assessed in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions.
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD403 Design plant displays (formerly AHCPGD401 Design plant displays)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD404 Plan a plant establishment program (formerly AHCPGD402 Plan a plant establishment program)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD506 Manage parks and reserves (formerly AHCPGD503 Manage parks and reserves)		
Government, WA	AHCPGD503 Manage parks and reserves is to be retained. There is a draft unit AHCPGD5XX Manage parks and reserves. Will this unit be listed in a qualification/s? I was not able to find the draft unit listed in a qualification in the Parks and Gardens or the Landscaping projects. At the moment the unit AHCPGD5XX appears to be an orphan unit.	Thank you for your feedback, which has been noted. This unit replaces <i>AHCPGD503 Manage parks and reserves</i> which is in the following qualifications: <i>AHC50416 Diploma of Horticulture</i> and <i>AHC51120 Diploma of Conservation and Ecosystem Management</i> .
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD507 Manage plant cultural practices (formerly AHCPGD501 Manage plant cultural practices)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD508 Plan the restoration of parks and gardens (formerly AHCPGD502 Plan the restoration of parks and gardens)		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD509 Develop and implement a streetscape management plan (formerly AHCPGD504 Develop and implement a streetscape management plan)		

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO, VIC	Re Knowledge Evidence: '... community consultation...' Should this be stakeholder - not just community? '...management...and issues ' Where is the knowledge of how to prepare a description of, and analysis of the site, how to identify strategies and write a management plan report? Also, how to implement a plan within a budget? Do they come under this one dot point?	Thank you for your feedback, which has been adopted. The following changes have been made to the unit: Knowledge Evidence: 'community consultation processes' changed to 'client and stakeholder consultation processes' 'management planning principles and issues' changed to 'management planning principles and issue identification strategies' added new KE 'site description and management plan documentation and reporting'
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted
AHCPGD510 Conduct comprehensive inspection of park facilities (formerly AHCPGD505 Conduct comprehensive inspection of park facilities)		
RTO, VIC	Re Knowledge Evidence: 'practical understanding of inspection... of park facilities ' And estimating cost of replacement or repair (as per PC3.3)	Thank you for your feedback, which has been adopted. The following changes have been made to the unit: Knowledge Evidence: 'practical understanding of inspection and auditing procedures and techniques, and legal and workplace reporting requirements for recommendations on maintenance, repair and replacement of park facilities' changed to 'practical understanding of inspection and auditing procedures and techniques, legal and workplace reporting requirements for recommendations on maintenance, and estimating cost of repair and replacement of park facilities'
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Validated	Noted

Proposed units of competency for deletion

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
AHCPGD205 Prepare a grave site		
SMEWG Validation Meeting: Industry; NSW, VIC Industry Association; National RTO; ACT, NSW, VIC	Delete	Adopted
IRC Meeting	Delete	Adopted