



Racing and Breeding

Horse or dog racing events are the result of years of effort by teams of skilled workers from the racing and breeding industry.

These industry professionals are expected to achieve the highest possible standards of safety, animal welfare and sporting integrity across all areas of their work, while also supporting the success of each animal in sport or breeding. Reputable workers in this industry are skilled in training, nutrition, and biomechanics to care for dogs or horses actively participating in racing, keeping them physically healthy and preventing injury. Expertise is also required to retrain animals and support their welfare as they move into breeding or other environments. Knowledge of pedigrees, animal welfare issues, business management, and regulations are needed across the industry to maintain the high standards expected by the public.

The national skills standards and qualifications for Australia's racing and breeding industry are overseen by the Racing and Breeding Industry Reference Committee (IRC).

Employs around
15,000 people

Contributes
\$669 million
to Gross Domestic Product

Revenue of
\$2.9 billion

(Source: IBISWorld Industry Wizard, 2020)

Skills Forecast

Annual update and proposed projects for 2020-2021

This year's Annual Update to the IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work (Skills Forecast) proposed two key projects for 2020 – 2021 and identified specific changes to the industry environment.

The RGR Racing and Breeding Training Package has undergone significant reviews and updates over the past three years. The training package now covers animal welfare issues, including skills for re-training and re-homing horses and greyhounds, and training safety issues. It has also been updated to include all the general skills needed to work in the industry.

The Racing and Breeding IRC is now focused on training implementation to ensure the maximum uptake of training. Projects for 2019-20 focus on some solutions to simplify training delivery and participation in the industry, while maintaining focus on the safety and welfare of participants and racing animals. The IRC will also work to identify non-accredited training in the industry throughout 2020-21.

There remains a critical shortage of track riders, and the IRC is examining ways in which training package development may support industry solutions on an on-going basis.

An equine industry survey, conducted by Skills Impact on behalf of the Animal Care and Management Industry Reference Committee, which included participants in the racing and breeding industries, confirmed that the shortage of track riders is one of the industry's greatest concerns. Government policy has allowed track riders to be sourced internationally, but on the condition that they undertake training; for example, through an apprenticeship or traineeship. Industry stakeholders report that many visa holders already possess relevant skills, but Recognition of Prior Learning options have been limited due to the lack of RTOs with relevant training package products on scope and delivery issues, such as the inability to offer training in regional locations and the absence of formally qualified assessors.



“We are screaming for track work riders and grooms. There is an untapped potential of rural kids who genuinely love working with horses.”

“Trackwork riders are hard to find, my local racing club [...] has no other means for exercising horses, they used to use joggers but aren't allowed on course anymore and the club would definitely benefit from another form of exercising as it gets quite hard on the track in the warmer months.”

Anonymous respondents to Skills Impact Equine Industry Survey, conducted on behalf of the Animal Care and Management Industry Reference Committee.

Projects for 2020-21

The following projects have been approved by the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) for 2020-21:

Alterations to Packaging Rules and Application Statement in the Certificate II in Racing Industry

The Certificate II in Racing Industry includes a core unit, ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour, which is inappropriate for greyhound industry participants. Moving this unit to the list of elective unit options is the favoured approach, as the qualification is intended as an introduction to the racing industry, allowing for specialisation in distinct sectors or roles through elective units.

Simplifying Certificate IV Qualifications for Riders and Drivers

This project proposes the removal of two units of competency from the BSB Business Services Training Package as core units from the qualifications. This will simplify delivery of the qualification while retaining all of the job role requirements. Feedback from RTOs is that learners are finding it difficult to complete the two BSB units because they include significant learning content that is not necessary for the context of the intended job roles. The change is supported by industry regulators and participants, with feedback indicating that these units do not provide skills needed for the job role of jockey.

Projects

Completed Projects

The following projects were endorsed by the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) on 13 August 2019. The revised qualifications, skill sets and units of competency, that were developed as part of these projects, are published on training.gov.au and available for delivery by registered training organisations (RTOs).

Visit www.skillsimpact.com.au/completed-projects for further details.

Greyhound Health Assistance Services Project

The skills and knowledge requirements for Greyhound Health Assistants, administering complementary non-invasive therapies to greyhounds, have been documented within a specialisation within the Certificate IV in Greyhound Racing Industry as well as a specific Greyhound Health Assistant Skill Set.

Horse Breeding Skills Project

The horse breeding sector is intrinsically linked to the racing sector. As such, this project has focused on revising breeding qualifications to ensure they are suitable for all kinds of breeding, including thoroughbred and standardbred horses.

Retraining Horses and Greyhounds to New Environments Project

This project has developed and revised qualifications and skills standards to support the work of retraining horses and greyhounds moving into domestic, equestrian, recreational or farm environments.