



Racing and Breeding



Australia's racing and breeding industry is dependent on a workforce with a high-level of skills in safety and animal welfare to produce successful events and care for animals throughout their careers and lives.

Employs around 27,000
people

Contributes \$968.5 million
to Gross Domestic Product

Revenue of \$4.6 billion

Source: IBISWorld Industry Wizard, 2021

For those preparing animals to race, expertise in training, nutrition and biomechanics is required to keep animals physically healthy. There is also a need for skills in retraining, to support animals transitioning to breeding or other environments. Knowledge of pedigrees, business management, biosecurity and regulations are also important to support these hands-on skills and maintain the integrity of the industry.

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

Skills Forecast

This year's Annual Update to the IRC Skills Forecast noted the success of the redevelopment of the national RGR Racing and Breeding Training Package as well as the importance of supporting training delivery.

Thanks to already strong biosecurity protocols, Australia's racing and breeding industry faced less disruption than other industries by COVID-19. The pandemic, however, highlighted the importance of training and development for industry participants and the ability of RTOs to adapt to COVID-19 protocols. High standards of safety and animal welfare are integral across all areas of work in the industry, combined with expertise to support the success of each animal in sport or breeding. Formally recognised,

quality-assured and independently assessed training is necessary to support skills development and recognition, but attracting Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to deliver training is a challenge. This is in part due to the cost in offering new training products, or gaining approval to have them on scope, as well as the cost of providing access to live animals, stables/kennels, tracks and equipment. The need for high safety standards within the training itself, while critical to delivery, is also a barrier for RTOs. The Principal Racing Authorities (PRAs) have been encouraging RTOs to deliver formal training and are also working with the Racing and Breeding IRC to find solutions for assisting RTOs to place relevant training on scope and begin delivery. Industry is also striving to

build upon its already high safety and welfare standards, to make entry into racing and breeding more appealing.

The Racing and Breeding IRC has brought to the attention of the AISC the importance of nationally consistent assessment and training resources. This is a gap in the current system as the development of these materials does not fall within the current national system. Skills Ministers are working to address this gap in the system and it is an important element in current VET reform proposals. The Racing and Breeding IRC strongly support this change and are trying to work with reform leaders to develop approaches that will address this gap.



Project Work Between 2020-21

Skills Impact managed the following project between July 2020 and June 2021.

The Racing and Breeding Industry Reference Committee (IRC) oversaw the project development, as part of their responsibility to support engagement with their industry and to ensure the project met stakeholder needs.

The qualifications updated as part of the following project were endorsed by the AISC and State and Territory Ministers in 2021. The qualifications are published on the national training register (training.gov.au) and available for delivery by registered training organisations (RTOs).

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

Greyhound Racing Careers & Jockeys Project

A career in Australia's racing industry presents a range of opportunities and pathways to choose from, all requiring foundation skills in animal welfare and sporting integrity. For those in higher level roles, like jockeys, these skills need to be further developed to keep themselves and their mounts safe and healthy. Thanks to the contributions of everyone involved

in this project, the skills required for both of these distinct groups of learners (those starting a career and jockeys) have been included in national qualifications. As a result, industry can be confident these qualifications capture skills to promote the health and safety of riders and horses across the industry.

The Certificate II in Racing Industry has been updated to better reflect the skills requirements of entry level careers in the racing industry across all codes, including thoroughbred, harness and greyhound. The core unit ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour was removed and included as a mandatory unit in the Stable Hand and Stud Hand specialisations, so as not to present a barrier to those wishing to pursue a career in greyhound racing. Two greyhound units are also included as electives. These changes are considered to be minor and the qualification is equivalent.

The Certificate IV in Racing (Jockey) has been revised to reflect the expertise required to race thoroughbred horses. Two advanced level business units have

been removed from the core of the qualification, as they were creating a barrier to training delivery and industry feedback indicated that they do not reflect the job role. This was also discussed with registered training organisations (RTOs), learners and relevant Principle Racing Authorities. The two units have now been superseded and the updated units included as electives. All prerequisite units relevant to the existing core units have also been included as core units. As a result of this, the number of required core units has been increased to 14 while the elective units have been decreased to three. All other units have been checked for currency and updated or removed where necessary. A statement has been included in the Companion Volume User Guide with a strong recommendation to RTOs to consider the personal health and fitness of learners as it applies to riding racehorses, at the weight specified according to the Australian Rules of Racing, and to ensure a person has a relevant medical clearance to become a jockey. These changes are considered to be minor and the qualification is equivalent.