

Communique

Meeting No: 2021.03

Date: Tuesday 23 November 2021

The Animal Care and Management (ACM) Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met via video conference on Tuesday 23 November 2021. Present at the meeting were IRC members, guests and representatives from Skills Impact.

2022 Industry Summary

Skills Impact updated the IRC on new Industry Summary requirements for submission in September 2022. A Skills Report, will be drafted to supplement the Industry Summary and identify common skills across the industry cluster proposed as part of VET Reform arrangements.

Round table discussion

The IRC members discussed issues, trends, emerging opportunities and views on skills and training. Animal welfare is an issue in most sectors with an expectation that further occupations will emerge in this area. The veterinary sector is under great pressure due to the shortage and attrition of veterinarians, highlighting the need for support workers and the potential development of the animal care and management equivalent of paraprofessionals. Career pathways and progression for workers, as well as attracting new entrants into the workforce in the animal care sectors were discussed. The pandemic has resulted in increased sales of pets showing emerging trends in pet day care, services and indoor pet playgrounds. The ACM training package is under utilised and the need for solutions was discussed.

VET Reform

IRC members were provided with an update on the VET reform confirming that the SSO and IRC structure will continue until the end of 2022. The Skills Cluster model is confirmed. IRC members will be invited to continue their tenure until the end of 2022.

Next meeting

The next Animal Care and Management IRC meeting is to be confirmed.