

## Communique

Meeting No: 2021.03

16 November 2021

The Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical (FBP) Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met via teleconference on 16 November 2021. Present at the meeting were IRC members, guests and representatives from Skills Impact.

### **Project Update: Australian Native and Bush Food Project**

This project has attracted a lot of interest and subject matter experts from First Nations organisations and communities. A proposed skill set is being developed, incorporating requests for business skills as well as issues around food handling, labelling and traceability. The project team is continuing to consult stakeholders with an interest in this field.

### **Project Update: Sugar Milling Project**

During the project development stage, consultations with subject matter experts from Australia's sugar mills have confirmed that two sugar milling qualifications, a skill set and 41 units of competency can be deleted from the National Training Register (NTR). A request for advice from the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) has been undertaken. The most likely outcome of this project will see the proposed components archived in the *FBP Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Training Package*, meaning they will still be accessible in the national training register, but will no longer be able to be placed onto scope by RTOs for the delivery of nationally accredited training.

### **VET Reform Update**

Information about the progress of the current VET reform process was discussed by the IRC. The guidelines with the details of requirements for industry clusters have not yet been published. The FBP IRC will continue to operate under the current system until December 2022.

### **Part Time Baking Apprenticeships in NSW**

The IRC received information that a part time apprenticeship for bakers has been approved for a large supermarket in NSW under a pilot program.

### **2022 Industry Skills Report and Industry Summary**

A 2022 Industry Skills Report for FBP industries is being collated. An Industry Summary will also be produced by September 2022, as requested by the DESE. No new reviews of training package components will be approved until after the new VET system is implemented (2023), unless an urgent need is evident. Skills Forecasts are no longer a mandatory requirement of IRCs.

### **Food Waste**

The Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre (FFWCRC) has requested that food waste issues be included in FBP qualifications. FBP IRC members agreed this issue should be considered in future reviews.

### **Wine and Viticulture Units**

The IRC noted feedback received regarding some wine and viticulture units, agreeing that these will be considered when the Certificates II and III in Wine Industry Operations are next reviewed, as they have only recently been updated. The IRC also agreed to action the deletion of some units that have already been removed from wine and viticulture qualifications, as they were confirmed by industry to be no longer needed.

### **Rice Milling**

SunRice has requested that Certificate III in Rice Milling not be deleted, despite its lack of enrolments in past years. This request has been noted and further information will be requested about their intentions to use the qualification.

### **Next meeting**

## Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Industry Reference Committee

The next FBP IRC meeting will be held in February or March 2022.