

Communique

Meeting No: 2022.01

16 June 2022

The Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical (FBP) Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met via teleconference on 16 June 2022. Present at the meeting were IRC members, guests and representatives from Skills Impact.

Membership Changes

Brett Noy, long term member of this Industry Reference Committee and representative of the baking industry on this committee, has resigned. Members noted that Brett has been a passionate and engaged contributor and advocate for the VET sector and of this committee over the past five years.

VET Reform Update

Skills Impact provided an update on VET reform processes and confirmed that Skills Impact has worked with industry partners to submit an application for working with the AgriBusiness, Food and Fibre Industry Cluster.

2022 Industry Skills Report and Industry Summary

In preparation for drafting the required Industry Summary in September to hand over to the new Industry Cluster, Skills Impact, with guidance from this IRC has prepared a report providing industry-specific detail and analysis of industry trends, issues, concerns, opportunities and challenges. This committee will review the document for suitability to present for public feedback.

Industry Round-Up

Members described some of the key issues facing their sector, including:

- labour shortages
- global and domestic supply chains, transport and logistics problems
- shelf life issues
- packaging shortages
- skilled logistics labour shortage
- shortages of pallets, packaging and containers
- slow turnaround times for products sourced internationally
- decreasing milk production and escalating prices
- COVID-19 still impacting on workforce including undertaking work online or offsite
- changes to learning culture and implementation of a learner-led approach
- limits on exports from Ukraine and China
- energy costs and supply issues
- suppliers to major supermarkets affected by cost increases not passed on to consumers
- waste export bans and recycling issues
- increasing demand for sustainable, efficient methods of operation
- record retail sales and concerns for maintaining supply of products.

Next meeting

The next FBP IRC meeting will be held in September 2022.