



# Racing and Breeding



Employs more than  
26,600 people<sup>62</sup>

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Made up of more than  
5,000 businesses<sup>63</sup>

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Contributes almost  
\$1 billion to Gross  
Domestic Product<sup>64</sup>

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Revenue of \$4.45 billion<sup>65</sup>

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63% of employees reside  
in regional Australia,  
where 51% of the industry's  
economic activity is  
generated<sup>66</sup>

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There are 371 Australian  
Racing Clubs<sup>67</sup>

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There are around 4.5  
million attendances at race  
meetings every year<sup>68</sup>

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More than 700 million  
people watch the  
Melbourne Cup worldwide<sup>69</sup>

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100,000 racehorse owners  
invest in Australian racing<sup>70</sup>

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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. 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).

62 IBISWorld Industry Wizard (2022)

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65 IBISWorld Industry Wizard (2022)

66 Racing Australia (2021); Fact Book 2021

67 TB Industry Careers (2022); The Industry; <https://tbindustry careers.com.au/the-industry/>; visited: 31/08/2022

68 TB Industry Careers (2022); The Industry; <https://tbindustry careers.com.au/the-industry/>; visited: 31/08/2022

69 TB Industry Careers (2022); The Industry; <https://tbindustry careers.com.au/the-industry/>; visited: 31/08/2022

70 TB Industry Careers (2022); The Industry; <https://tbindustry careers.com.au/the-industry/>; visited: 31/08/2022



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## Industry Skills Report

This year, Skills Impact prepared a Racing and Breeding Industry Skills Report, at the request of the Industry Reference Committee (IRC), to provide in-depth information about industry-specific issues impacting skills and training.

Thanks to a high-level biosecurity and health protocols, the racing and breeding industries have experienced less disruption than many other industries over the last two years, allowing continuation of the industry in most jurisdictions. However, some activities were curtailed, especially in regional, rural and remote areas, with disruptions to breeding sales around the country and the cessation of all three racing codes in Tasmania for some of 2020.

While career opportunities are available in racing and breeding, attracting labour remains one of the biggest challenges for the industry. Industry is making considerable efforts to address this, focusing on attracting the next generation of workers to fill this gap. The addition of the occupation of track rider to the ANZSCO Codes has been welcomed by the industry, opening avenues to address a major skills shortage.

Recent updates to the training package have been working well. However, COVID-19 has been disruptive to training and proved a barrier to some RTOs placing qualifications on scope. Even in this environment, industry participants are actively seeking to promote skills and training opportunities, through a myriad of industry-led education initiatives.

A number of integrity (Stewards) bodies have also been looking at ways to facilitate training and skills gaps. Skills impact has been communicating with bodies to ensure the national training package remains relevant and that consideration is being given to relevant training across jurisdiction and sectors.

The IRC suggests that the priorities of for industry skills and training in future should include any support that can be given to attracting new entrants to the industry, including:

- creating nationally consistent assessment and training resources across all qualifications, with immediate priorities for track riders and stewards/integrity qualifications
- activities to support engagement with employers that have identified RTO barriers to delivery
- mapping of career pathways to assist the National Careers Institute to address critical workforce shortages through the promotion of careers
- review of RGR40221 Certificate IV in Racing (Jockey) to remove prerequisites and duplications, included in the core concerning riding, to free up training hours to include updated skills required to fill training gaps.







## Projects

### Project work between 2021-22

The qualifications updated as part of the following project were endorsed by the AISC and State and Territory Ministers between July 2021 and June 2022. The qualifications are published on the national training register ([training.gov.au](https://training.gov.au)) and available for delivery by registered training organisations (RTOs).

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.

## Completed Project (started in the previous year)

### Greyhound Racing Careers and Jockeys Project

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Thanks to the contributions of everyone involved in this project, the skills required for those starting a career in the racing industry and the expertise required to be a jockey are accurately described in national qualifications. 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 Certificate IV in Racing (Jockey) was revised to reflect the expertise required to race thoroughbred horses. As a result, industry can be confident these qualifications capture skills to promote the health and safety of riders and horses across the industry.