

Communique

Meeting No: 2017.02
10 March 2017

The Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met in Melbourne on 10 March. Present at the meeting were members and guests including State and Territory ITABs/ITACs, Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL) and MedTech and Pharma Growth Centre (MTPConnect).

Vision and Mission

The following Vision and Mission was workshopped and agreed by the Committee:

Vision

The Industry Reference Committee will effectively contribute to growing the productivity, efficiency and international competitiveness of the industry by leading the development of high quality and relevant training products including competencies and qualifications associated with the training package for the Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical industries.

Mission

To gather and analyse industry intelligence to inform the creation of an evidence-based *IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work* that underpins development of fit for purpose training packages that reflect the current and future needs and aspirations of the industry.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The MOU provides an agreed framework of operation between the IRC and Skills Impact, the supporting Skills Service Organisation (SSO), including agreed outcomes and expectations of both. The document was discussed by the IRC and provisionally approved with minor amendments and inclusions.

Draft IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work

The committee discussed the draft *IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work*. It was suggested that there should be a specific focus on food safety auditing, food packaging innovation, innovation in product development, fermentation, traceability, and quality control.

Projects

Current projects include a review of the retail baking units of competency and qualifications; update of a number of units of competency across the *FDF Food Processing Training Package*; and transition of the *ZRG Rice Processing Enterprise Training Package* units of competency and qualifications to the *FDF Food Processing Training Package*. Preparation is underway for a review across wine related units of competency and qualifications. Details on all projects can be found on the Skills Impact website www.skillsimpact.com.au.

Pharmaceutical IRC

It was noted that a 'pop-up' Pharmaceutical IRC will be created for a 12 month period. The structure will be made public for consultation prior to sign-off by the Australian Industry Skills Committee (AISC) and nominations called for via the AISC website.