Communique

The Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met in Melbourne on 10 November 2017. Present at the meeting were members and guests including several representatives from State and Territory ITABs/ITACs.

FBP Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Training Package Case for Endorsement

The Committee discussed the *FBP Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Training Package Case for Endorsement* and the associated Report By Exception relating to retail baking. STA/TTA responses were also discussed, including the request for a longer transition time, concerns about the increased performance evidence required of retail bakers, the delivery recommendation and nominal duration for the different qualifications and one request for an extension to the response deadline.

Members agreed that once all STA responses were received and issues resolved, the Chair could sign and submit this Case for Endorsement to the AISC on their behalf.

Projects

A report on the ongoing, current projects to review and redevelop components within the *FDF10 Food Processing Training Package* (Wine Operations, Pharmaceuticals, Food Science and Technology, Food and Beverage Manufacturing - Cross Sector Project) was presented. The Committee discussed the challenges in ensuring appropriate and adequate engagement with all appropriate industry sectors impacted by these reviews and proposed ways to encourage increased participation. The Committee is seeking any feedback on improvements in engagement and consultation with a focus on equity, transparency and a balance of inputs to Training Package review and reform.

Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work 2018- 2021

The Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical IRC is required to produce an updated Skills Forecast by April 2018. Committee members discussed emerging trends and industry future skills and capability needs in the long, medium and short term. Some of the emerging trends identified included: responding to consumer, market and industry expectations and requirements on food sustainability, future energy consumption and other resource inputs, increasing issues relating to food fraud (particularly from imported foods), increasing demands on industry to demonstrate provenance/traceability for products, and the speed of automation/robotics and digital disruption in the food, beverage and pharmaceutical sectors.

To inform the next Skills Forecast, all Committee members recognised and agreed the need to consult with all aspects affecting their industry sectors, including research, production, manufacturing and regulation.