

## Communique

The Animal Care and Management (ACM) Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met in Sydney on 29 November 2017. Present at the meeting were members and guests including several representatives from state and territory ITABs/ITACs.

### **2018 Skills Forecast and Schedule of Work**

As a newly formed IRC, the committee discussed the Skills Priorities that were listed in the *2017 IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work*. The Committee noted that the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) has requested a *Case for Change* for two of the listed Skill Priorities (Large Animal Rescue and Horse Education). These two priorities will remain in the *2018 IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work* while the AISC makes their determination whether or not to activate an *Activity Order* for these projects.

The IRC determined that a number of the 2017 listed priorities are not relevant for inclusion in the *2018 IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work*. Skills Priority areas the IRC determined should be included are:

- Content review for two animal technology qualifications and the creation of two new skill sets. The new skill sets would address the requirements necessary for i) working on an ethics committee ii) researchers undertaking surgery.
- Development of a Diploma of Equine Dentistry
- Content review of pet grooming and styling qualifications
- Development of a suite of units for Equine Veterinary Nursing that can be added to the Veterinary Nursing Diploma as a dedicated stream
- Development of Animal First Aid units.

### **Accredited Course**

The IRC discussed the accredited course application for the *Diploma of Canine Training and Development*.

The IRC agreed that further information was required before a decision to support could be made. The course proponent has been advised of the request.

### **ANZLAA request for IRC membership**

The IRC received a letter from the Australian and New Zealand Laboratory Animal Association (ANZLAA) requesting membership of the IRC. It was agreed that ANZLAA would be contacted to discuss the request.

### **Possible joint project with the Racing IRC: Fostering and rehoming of dogs**

The IRC noted that the Racing IRC has a skill priority that would develop a skill set for fostering and rehoming of retiring greyhounds. The ACM IRC sees benefit in this project going ahead as the skills could be used by dog rescue organisations. The ACM would like the AISC to be aware of their support for this project to be a priority and have requested Skills Impact to pass their feedback to the AISC.