

# Greyhound Health Assistance Services Project



## Summary of Final Draft (Validation) Feedback, Responses and Actions

July 2019

This report provides a summary of the comments and feedback received on the final draft qualifications, skills sets and units for the Greyhound Health Assistance Services Project. It details the response and action taken based on this feedback, which was received out of the Validation stage from March 8 to 31 2019

Skills and knowledge requirements for non-veterinary providers administering complementary medicine to greyhounds/canines were identified, reviewed and considered for inclusion in skill sets or units and competency within the *RGR Racing and Breeding Training Package*. A summary of components is listed below:

- 4 new units of competency based on skills associated with the provision of health assistance services to greyhounds
- 1 new qualification Certificate IV in Greyhound Industry (specialisations as Trainer, Health Assistant, Transition to Pet) – also relevant to Greyhound Transition to Pet project
- 1 new skill set created for job roles relevant to provision of health assistance services to greyhound
- 7 current RGR units reviewed

The Case for Endorsement for RGR Racing and Breeding Industry Training Package components will be submitted for endorsement on 30 June 2019. Please note: Training Package Components have been recoded to avoid gaps in coding e.g. when components were deleted. This is standard practice to ensure logical flow of codes. Some components had minor title changes for clarity and were recommended and/or supported by industry feedback.

Below is a summary of the comments received and how they have been considered alongside views of industry stakeholders where known, and views provided by the people who are part of the Subject Matter Expert Working Group process. Resolutions are constructed to take into account the needs and views of stakeholders to the extent possible, and to comply with the Standards for Training Package 2012. The resolutions may represent a compromise on one or more stakeholder views with the aim of a workable outcome for industry, State and Territory Training Authorities (STAs) and training providers.

## Summary of feedback

### Qualifications

In discussions it was agreed that the inclusion of core units and the addition of specialist streams would provide wider application of the qualification Certificate IV in Racing (Greyhound Trainer) and provide pathways for job roles within the industry.

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
<b>RGR40419 Certificate IV in Greyhound Racing Industry</b>		
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM) Manager	Looks fine – could be large nominal hours	Noted
Industry Relationship Lead – Animal Care & Racing, Agribusiness SkillsPoint, TAFE NSW	Minor typo	Adopted
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM) – Project Officer (PO)	Entry requirements are not clear – is it stating prerequisite?	<p>To undertake this qualification the individual must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>skills and knowledge commensurate with <i>RGR20117 Certificate II in Racing (Greyhound)</i> demonstrating industry-relevant experience in the care, welfare and management of greyhounds.</li> </ul> <p>Not a prerequisite to have RGR20117 – it means RGR20117 OR similar industry relevant experience</p>

## Units of competency

All new units have been developed to include volume and/or frequency in performance evidence to comply with the *Standards for Training Packages 2012* and Foundation Skills included in each.

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
<b>RGRPSG203 Promote and enhance greyhound behaviour</b>		
Industry Relationship Lead – Animal Care & Racing, Agribusiness SkillsPoint, TAFE NSW	KE - Add a point to address enrichment and socialisation activities - PC2.3	Adopted – added <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>overview of enrichment and socialisation activities relating to behaviour</li> </ul>
<b>RGRPSG208 Promote and enhance greyhound health and welfare</b>		
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM) Melbourne Polytechnic	Application statement is inconsistent with other units. Add same statement as in new units  KE – suggested rewording / additional points  AC resources – ethics issue using live animal	Adopted – added – <i>All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory animal welfare and health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.</i>  KE – reworded for clarity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>characteristics of healthy greyhounds and sick, distressed or injured animals</li> <li>characteristics of greyhounds in positive, negative and neutral mental states and effective actions to address negative mental states</li> </ul> AC – added ... 'or model animals where use of live greyhounds is impractical, unsafe or unethical
Industry Relationship Lead – Animal Care & Racing, Agribusiness SkillsPoint, TAFE NSW	PE – add a point to PE - groom and bathe greyhounds to address element 4. KE – add <i>types of equipment</i> to grooming/bathing point	Adopted
<b>RGRPSG302 Assess health and provide first aid for greyhounds</b>		

Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM) Melbourne Polytechnic	<p>Application – add statement included in new units</p> <p>AC – resources – ethics issue using live animal – implies you must inflict fractures, bleeding etc</p>	<p>Adopted - added</p> <p><i>All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory animal welfare and health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.</i></p> <p>AC – added ... 'or model animals where use of live greyhounds is impractical, unsafe or unethical</p>
Industry Relationship Lead – Animal Care & Racing, Agribusiness SkillsPoint, TAFE NSW	KE – add point on identifying basic equipment in first aid kit	<p>Adopted – added</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>types of equipment in a basic first aid kit</li> </ul>
<b>RGRPSG305 Coordinate greyhound breeding</b>		
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM) Melbourne Polytechnic	PE – add reference to welfare standards	<p>Adopted – changed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>developed, monitored, evaluated and updated greyhound breeding programs using anatomical traits, <i>welfare standards</i> and industry performance indicators to analyse success.</li> </ul>
<b>RGRPSG306 Determine care and treatment needs of racing greyhounds</b>		
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM) Melbourne Polytechnic	<p>Application – add statement included in new units – as above</p> <p>PC4.1 – add as per specialist advice</p> <p>PC5.3 – add identify as well as recognise</p> <p>KE - add</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>signs of greyhound behaviour indicating pain or distress, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vocalisation, yelping</li> <li>pulling away, stiffness, restricted movement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Adopted – statement added to application</p> <p><i>All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory animal welfare and health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.4.1</i></p> <p>Administer medication and treatments according to fear free handling, safe greyhound health care practices, <i>specialist advice</i> and industry standards</p> <p>5.3 identify and recognise ...</p>

		KE - adopted
Industry Relationship Lead – Animal Care & Racing, Agribusiness SkillsPoint, TAFE NSW	KE – add point about <i>routine prophylactics, parasites and diseases</i> to address PC2.1	Adopted – added <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• routine prophylactics for common parasites and diseases in greyhounds</li> </ul>
<b>RGRPSG308 Whelp greyhounds</b>		
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM) Melbourne Polytechnic	Application – add statement included in new units – as above	Adopted <i>All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory animal welfare and health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.</i>
Industry Relationship Lead – Animal Care & Racing, Agribusiness SkillsPoint, TAFE NSW	KE – add <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• procedures for sexing neonates to address PC3.5</li> <li>• more on hygiene standards and PPE</li> </ul>	KE – point expanded to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• procedures for sexing neonates</li> <li>• workplace hygiene standards, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal protective equipment for handling birthing fluids</li> <li>• disinfectants and cleaning agents, techniques and equipment</li> <li>• infection control procedures.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>RGRPSG309 Educate a greyhound</b>		
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM) Melbourne Polytechnic	Application – add statement included in new units – as above	Adopted <i>All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory animal welfare and health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.</i>
<b>All health assistance units (RGRPSG407-410)</b>		

Industry Victoria	Application statement – requires clarification - under the broad direction of whom? Our vets suggest that this should be clarified as a veterinarian or relevant expert rather than leave it open to being for example, an inexperienced trainer. Suggested wording provided	<p>Feedback – revised wording</p> <p>Replace (second paragraph) - The unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work. They complete routine activities dealing with predictable and unpredictable problems relating to their work in the greyhound racing sector with:</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals who work with greyhound owners, trainers and veterinarians to assist with optimising the health of racing greyhounds.</p> <p>Include (third paragraph) state-based licensing arrangements</p> <p>Now reads - All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory animal welfare and health and safety regulations, legislation, state-based licensing arrangements and standards that apply to the workplace.</p>
<b>RGRPSG407 Work as a greyhound health assistant</b>		
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM)– Project Officer, Melbourne Polytechnic	<p>PE – queried term ‘industry participant’</p> <p>KE – add</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• signs of greyhound behaviour indicating pain or distress, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vocalisation, yelping</li> <li>• pulling away, stiffness, restricted movement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Added brackets – (greyhound owner/carer/trainer)</p> <p>Adopted – additions to KE</p>
Industry Victoria	<p>Revised wording suggested for PC1.1 and 2.2</p> <p>PC1.2 – clarification of ‘ethical’ would be helpful</p>	<p>Adopted</p> <p>1.1 Identify key requirements of state and national legislation relevant to providing greyhound health assistance services</p> <p>2.2 Identify common greyhound racing and training related symptoms of a range of conditions</p>

	KE - invasive treatments ... any procedure which causes a greyhound to experience pain (Feedback - massage and muscle manipulation can cause pain also)	KE – comment noted. This point was added to reinforce animal welfare – signs of greyhound behaviour indicating pain or distress added to address this point.
Industry Relationship Lead – Animal Care and Racing, Agribusiness SkillsPoint, TAFE NSW	KE – add Vet Surgeons Act or veterinary surgeon regulations	Adopted – revised wording – note state legislation has different titles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• national and state legislation and regulations relevant to the greyhound racing industry including:</li> <li>• animal welfare and cruelty to animals</li> <li>• veterinary surgeons/practice</li> <li>• work health and safety</li> </ul>
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM)– Project Officer, Melbourne Polytechnic	<p>PE - What is defined as an industry participant? Where is it defined that this person has the skills and knowledge to determine accuracy of explanation?</p> <p>KE - <i>invasive treatments ... any procedure which causes a greyhound to experience pain</i></p> <p>No mention of how or the knowledge required to determine pain in greyhounds, so a judgement can be made on a procedure. This is very ambiguous and broad - not in the animals' best interest.</p>	<p>AC – industry participant (<i>greyhound owner/carer/trainer</i>) added for clarification. The assessor would determine the accuracy of the explanation not the industry participant</p> <p>KE – added</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• signs of greyhound behaviour indicating pain or distress, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vocalisation, yelping</li> <li>• pulling away, stiffness, restricted movement</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Note – this change has been made to all units where relevant</p>
<b>RGRPSG408 Relate musculoskeletal structure to greyhound movement</b>		
Australian Greyhound Veterinarians	KE – add <i>ulna</i> to distal growth plates	Adopted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bone development during growth periods, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tibial crest</li> <li>• radial and distal <i>ulna</i> growth plates</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM)– Project Officer,	<p>Element 3 – change <i>recognise</i> to <i>identify</i></p> <p>Add new PC3.5 - <i>Identify changes in behaviour indicating pain and distress</i></p> <p>KE – add extra points</p>	<p>Adopted – wording change for element 3</p> <p>Adopted – added PC3.5 <i>Identify changes in behaviour indicating pain and distress</i></p> <p>Adopted – extra KE points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• greyhound health and welfare principles</li> <li>• minor dysfunction or injury, including:</li> </ul>

Melbourne Polytechnic		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• muscle strain</li> <li>• bruising</li> <li>• tendon and ligament sprain</li> <li>• abraded pads, nail tears</li> <li>• acidosis (low grade)</li> <li>• signs of greyhound behaviour indicating pain or distress, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vocalisation, yelping</li> <li>• pulling away, stiffness, restricted movement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Industry Victoria	PC1.1 why identify 'main' bones and joints rather than all bones and joints - this is level 4 unit	<p>Suggest leaving as 'main' bones and joints to avoid over assessment/training</p> <p>Remove the word 'main' to read</p> <p>1.1 Identify the bones and joints within the greyhound musculoskeletal system and relate to their purpose</p>
<b>RGRPSG409 Assess greyhound structural and functional suitability for racing</b>		
Industry NSW	Provided a copy of ' <i>Notes on the Greyhound – Examining the greyhound for injuries by palpation</i> ' (former muscleman and veterinary technician and registered industry participant in NSW). Detailed resource document	<p>No specific feedback requiring action – could be used as a training resource or added to the CVIG – note copyright to author.</p> <p>The unit appears to be compatible with the resource document</p>
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM)– Project Officer, Melbourne Polytechnic	<p>Emphasise that the unit relates to minor dysfunctions or injuries only</p> <p>PC1.4 &amp; 2.5 replace '<i>recognise</i>' with '<i>identify</i>'</p> <p>Add – minor to element 3, 2.5</p> <p>KE – add greyhound health and welfare principles</p>	Adopted – added minor to PC1.4, 2.5 and element 3
Industry Relationship Lead – Animal Care and Racing,	Suggest reordering PCs in element 1 – move PC1.5 to PC1.2 i.e. obtain background information from owner/trainer earlier	<p>Refer to SME group for further advice</p> <p>PC 1.5 moves to 1.2 – now reads:</p>



Agribusiness SkillsPoint, TAFE NSW		1.2 Obtain background information from owner and/or trainer on greyhound racing performance to assist with identifying common injuries
Industry Victoria	<p>Element 3 – needs to be revised</p> <p>This requires a good grasp of the science behind injury and rehabilitation - which is beyond the level of this course. The wording needs to reflect that this might be more about building a strong understanding of, rather than being able to do this themselves. Referral to a veterinarian is appropriate but capacity to diagnose and recommend solutions should ultimately be the domain of a veterinary practitioner and in consultation with a veterinary practitioner.</p>	<p>Refer to SME group for further advice</p> <p>New Element 3</p> <p>3. Provide options for detected musculoskeletal dysfunction or injury</p> <p>3.1 Identify abnormalities and discuss examination findings with owner and/or trainer</p> <p>3.2 Refer greyhounds with major dysfunction and injuries to registered veterinarian for clinical examination</p> <p>3.3 Provide options for non-invasive treatment for minor dysfunction and injuries with greyhound owner and/or trainer and in consultation with veterinarians</p> <p>3.4 Advise on strategies to avoid injury and on recovery or stand down times for relevant injuries in consultation with veterinarians, owners and trainers</p>
Industry Victoria	<p>Performance Evidence (PE) - Overall there seems to be very low level of evidence required for each of the three dot point areas identified. This is especially due to the variations in ways injuries can present. As such, the numbers should closely reflect the breath of injuries identified before allowed to perform duties (e.g. 20). In addition, in relation to the treatment plan, a diary of assessment and identification for each case should be made to reflect a thorough and purposeful examination</p>	<p>Referred to SME group for advice on performance evidence – volume/frequency – is 20 (as suggested) too many? The PE refers to final summative assessment – not training &amp; practice.</p> <p>Consider revised PE wording (red== new wording):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• carried out a physical examination of at least 20 greyhounds under supervision of veterinarian</li> <li>• maintained a diary of assessment and identification for each greyhound examined</li> <li>• completed a treatment plan for five greyhounds that have minor dysfunctions or injuries</li> <li>• completed notes to be referred to a registered veterinarian for one greyhound that has a major dysfunction or injury.</li> </ul> <p>PE now reads There must be evidence that the individual has:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>carried out a physical examination of at least 10 greyhounds under supervision of veterinarian</li> <li>maintained a diary of assessment and identification for each greyhound examined</li> <li>completed a treatment plan for five greyhounds that have minor dysfunctions or injuries in consultation with a registered veterinarian</li> <li>completed notes to be referred to a registered veterinarian for one greyhound that has a major dysfunction or injury.</li> </ul>
Industry Victoria - continued	<p>KE - Is separate training for each of these machines required?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>non-invasive treatments, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... physiotherapy machines for treatments - laser therapy, therapeutic ultra-sound, magnetic field therapy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>KE – changed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>range and availability</i> of physiotherapy machines for treatments, including laser therapy, therapeutic ultra-sound, magnetic field therapy</li> </ul>
<b>RGRPSG410 Provide massage and non-invasive health treatments for greyhounds</b>		
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM)– Project Officer, Melbourne Polytechnic	<p>Application – add minor to - to detect minor injury or dysfunction. PC2.2 change <i>recognise</i> to <i>identify</i></p> <p>KE – add</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>greyhound health and welfare principles</li> <li>signs of greyhound behaviour indicating pain or distress, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vocalisation, yelping</li> <li>pulling away, stiffness, restricted movement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Adopted – all suggested changes
Industry Relationship Lead – Animal Care and Racing, Agribusiness SkillsPoint, TAFE NSW	<p>Element 4 Should there be a PC about arranging the follow up treatment or following the treatment plan in PC1.5?</p>	Adopted – added new PC 4.3 <i>4.3 Arrange follow up treatments according to treatment plan</i>
Industry Victoria	Prerequisites – add	Adopted – Referred to SME group to confirm need for 3 prerequisites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RGRPSG201 Handle greyhounds</li> </ul>

	RGRPSG409 Assess greyhound structural and functional suitability for racing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RGRPSG408 Relate musculoskeletal structure to greyhound movement</li> <li>• RGRPSG409 Assess greyhound structural and functional suitability for racing</li> </ul>
	<p>Element 1 Assessment should have been performed already before therapy/treatment has been decided. This is akin to saying someone needs chemotherapy before assessing whether they have cancer in the first place</p> <p>PC1.5 &amp; element 3 - his should include the ability to identify when to refer to a veterinarian. Otherwise, this will indicate that all injuries can be automatically addressed by massage/non-invasive treatments.</p>	<p>Adopted</p> <p>Element 1 reworded to reflect assessment (PCs1.4-1.7) Assess greyhound suitability for massage therapy or non-invasive treatments</p> <p>Adopted – new PC1.6 added 1.6 Refer owner to registered veterinarian for conditions outside scope of practice</p>

## Skills sets

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
<b>RGRSS00076 Greyhound Health Assistant Skill Set</b>		
Industry Victoria	Ensure RGRPSG201 Handle a greyhound is captured	Adopted – it is a prerequisite for RGRPSG302 Assess health and provide first aid for greyhounds