Animal Technology project

Summary of Validation Feedback, Responses and Actions

April 2019

This project includes the review of two qualifications and 13 units of competency within the *ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package*. New components include two new units of competency and one skill set. The final draft materials were developed as a result of feedback provided by Subject Matter Experts at a Validation Workshop held on 10 April 2019 and from broad stakeholder feedback via online surveys from 25 March 2019 – 7 April 2019. During this time feedback was received via email, surveys, and in person at the Validation workshop. Input was sought and received from stakeholders around Australia, including from Registered Training Organisations, Government bodies including Industry Training Advisory Boards and State Training Authorities, and industry representatives including Veterinarians.

As a direct result of feedback received, a number of changes were made to the documents under review.

Mostly notably:

Changes to the electives for Certificate III – the following electives were added:

- ACMGAS307 Identify animal anatomy and physiology for animal care work (Group A)
- MSL973016 Perform aseptic techniques (Group A)
- Changes to electives in the Diploma qualification, including:
- ACMATE5X2 Contribute to ethical treatment of animals in research facilities – removed from Group A
- ACMGAS307 Identify animal anatomy and physiology for animal care work – added to Group A
- PSPSCI004 Undertake scientific/technological research – added to Group A
- MSL973019 Perform microscopic examination – added to Group A

Minor adjustments to the Performance Criteria, Foundation skills, Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence in some units of competency.

Change of unit titles/codes:

- ACMATE404 Prepare for and assist with aseptic animal surgery
- ACMATE509 Perform caesarean procedures on mice or rats
- ACMATE510 Review and monitor research proposals for an Animal Ethics Committee
- ACMATE403 Conduct non-surgical procedures on animals (code changed to indicative AQF 4)

Unit deleted

- ACMATE5X2 Contribute to ethical treatment of animals in research facilities - some content (element 3) moved to ACMATE510

Terminology

- 'humane killing or euthanasia' used in place of 'euthanasia' to reflect the language of the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes
- Research animals replaces laboratory animals in all units for consistency
- Animal welfare frameworks - 5 Domains replaces 5 Freedoms

Agreement with revised Application statement which has been updated to address differences in State/Territory legislation.

Visit the Skills Impact website to view a full list of the documents that were submitted for consultation during this phase.

Below is a summary of the issues raised and how these issues have been dealt with. This involves a consideration of the information provided, views of industry stakeholders where known, and views provided by the people who were selected for the Subject Matter Expert Validation Working Group. Resolutions are constructed and consider 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 on qualifications

Changes have been made to the two animal technology qualifications to ensure they reflect current industry practice and align with the Australian Qualification Framework qualification type descriptor for each qualification. Changes to the packaging rules for core and electives have been made with additional units included in each qualification.

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
Certificate III in Animal Technology		
Validation Meeting, National Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA	Additional electives suggested to be added to Group A Equivalence discussed – No equivalent qualification	Adopted – the following electives were added to Group A • ACMGAS307 Identify animal anatomy and physiology for animal care work • MSL973016 Perform aseptic technique Equivalence – No equivalent qualification
Diploma of Animal Technology		
Validation Meeting, National Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA	Additional electives suggested to be added to Group A ACMATE5X2 Contribute to ethical treatment of animals in research facilities – no longer needed Equivalence discussed – No equivalent qualification	Adopted – the following electives were added to Group A • ACMGAS307 Identify animal anatomy and physiology for animal care work • PSPSCI004 Undertake scientific/technological research • MSL973019 Perform microscopic examination Removed from Group A electives (see details in unit section) • ACMATE5X2 Contribute to ethical treatment of animals in research facilities – removed from Group A – no longer needed Equivalence – No equivalent qualification

Summary of validation outcomes on units of competency

Animal Technology (ATE) - Changes to all units:

Acronyms - PC – performance criteria, PE – performance evidence, KE – knowledge evidence, AC – assessment conditions, SMEs – Subject Matter Experts

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
General		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Application statement Agreement with the revised statement to address differences in State legislation regarding Acts of Veterinary Science, Animal Welfare and Biosecurity need to be recognised	Application statement – updated to: *All work practices must be undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements, the current Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (the Code); the organisation's standard operating procedures; and protocols, policies and procedures approved by the organisation's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC). Users are advised to check legislative requirements for their jurisdiction.*
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	• Change animal welfare framework from 5 Freedoms to 5 Domains throughout all units where specified	Adopted in: • ACMATE301 Work within an animal technology facility • ACMATE506 Assist to collect and transfer embryos of mice • ACMATE509 Perform caesarean procedures on mice and rats
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	• Change *laboratory* animal/s to *research* animal/s for consistency in all units	Adopted
ACMATE301 Work within an animal technology facility		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Add 'or humane killing' to references to euthanasia – element 4 and PC4.2 Wording changes – to be more positive PC3.3 delete ...*according to health and safety work requirements* PC5.3 change *address* to *maintain* PC5.4 change *issues* to *challenges* Equivalence discussed – *No equivalent unit*	Adopted – Added 'or humane killing' to euthanasia in element 4 and PC4.2 Element 4 now reads: Identify and observe approved euthanasia or humane killing practice in an animal technology facility. PC wording changes:

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
		- PC4.2 Identify appropriate process and species-specific approved methods for euthanasia or humane killing used in the facility - PC5.3 Identify coping strategies and tools to maintain mental health issues - PC5.4 Contribute to team strategies to address challenges relating to animal technology work Equivalence – *No equivalent unit*
ACMATE306 Follow containment and exclusion procedures in animal facilities		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Equivalence discussed – Equivalent unit Agreement that the unit is indicative AQF level 3	Adopted Equivalence – *Equivalent unit*
ACMATE401 Prepare for and monitor anaesthesia in animals		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Equivalence discussed – Equivalent unit Agreement that the unit is indicative AQF level 4	Adopted Equivalence – *Equivalent unit*
ACMATE402 Conduct euthanasia of research animals		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Application statement – revise to be consistent with other units Terminology – considerable discussion about use of accurate language used in the Code vs public perceptions of those outside the industry - Title – leave euthanasia only in title - Elements and PCs - include 'or humane killing PCs – wording changes - PC2.3 remove/reword – *assist* and *where required* - PC2.4 – remove *as instructed*	Adopted - edits to application statement for consistency - included *or humane killing* in elements and PCs - KE – adopted - indicators of death in animals PC changes - PC2.3 Handle and restrain animals to minimise pain, distress and risk of injury to the animals or personnel according to animal welfare, ethical and legal requirements

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
	• PC3.4 add – *and drugs* KE – remove reference to AEC in point about - indicators of death in animals Equivalence discussed – Equivalent unit Agreement that the unit is indicative AQF level 4	• PC2.4 Apply approved euthanasia or humane killing method according to the requirements of the task • PC3.4 Decontaminate or clean, and store or dispose of, equipment, materials and drugs Adopted - *Equivalent unit*
ACMATE404 Prepare for and assist with aseptic animal surgery (revised title)		
Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance manager (PICMM)	• Species-specific techniques used to prepare animals for surgical procedures - Is this the safe handling techniques to prepare animals for anaesthesia and surgery in PC 2.1? • Relevant state or territory legislation and regulations including: I expect that this relates to regulatory requirements in 4.2. Should biosecurity be here?	KE - Adopted • added safe handling to species-specific - safe handling and species-specific techniques used to prepare animals for surgical procedures • added biosecurity to regulations
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Title – change to *Prepare for and assist ….* Changes to PCs PC1.4 replace *assist* with *perform* PC3.2 and 3.3 – remove *as instructed* Agreement that the unit is indicative AQF level 4	Adopted Title changed to *Prepare for and assist with aseptic animal surgery* • 1.4 *Perform* gloving and gowning procedures according to organisational procedures and aseptic techniques • 3.2 & 3.3 removed Adopted - No equivalent unit
ACMATE501 Manage compliance in animal technology		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	PCs – wording changes • PC1.4 – add … *legislation and other regulatory bodies* • PC1.5 replace *define* with *interpret* • PC1.6 add … *and institutional biosecurity committee or equivalent* • PC2.3, 2.4 & 2.5 add … *humane killing* to euthanasia • PC2.4 remove *regularly* and replace *veterinarians or manager* with *senior personnel* • PC3.1 reword to *Interpret health status reports* • PC3.3 remove *regularly*	Adopted – PC wording changes • 1.4 Apply requirements outlined in relevant, current Code, legislation and other regulatory bodies to daily animal car • 1.5 Interpret and follow reporting requirements to the AEC • 1.6 Follow the care and containment of experimental animals to comply with AEC requirements and institutional biosecurity committee or equivalent • 2.3 Supervise and monitor euthanasia/humane killing procedures, and provide assistance or support to staff 2.4 Review the organisation's standard operating procedures relating to euthanasia/humane killing, and discuss and

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
	KE – add • *Concepts of sentinel and monitoring programs including current technologies* • *Types of expected and unexpected adverse events* • Add *federal* to quarantine requirements Equivalence discussed – Equivalent unit	implement suggestions for improvement with senior personnel • 2.4 Review the organisation's standard operating procedures relating to euthanasia/humane killing, and discuss and implement suggestions for improvement with senior personnel • 3.1 Interpret health status reports • 3.3 Review the organisation's standard operating procedures relating to containment and exclusion and discuss suggestions for improvement with relevant personnel KE – adopted additional suggested points Adopted - *Equivalent unit*
ACMATE502 Manage and maintain the health of research animals		
(Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Terminology – use research rather than laboratory animal throughout this unit and all others for consistency PC – changes • PC2.4 replace *lesions* with *abnormalities* KE – remove 2nd level bullet points relating to state/ territory legislation and organisational policies – keep general – too repetitive Equivalence discussed – Equivalent unit	Adopted – changes made throughout unit PC changes • 2.4 Recognise abnormalities in research animals, including during post-mortem examinations, and record against health status of animals KE – suggestion adopted • relevant aspects of state or territory legislation and regulations relating to health of research animals • organisational policies and safe work procedures relating to health of research animals Adopted - *Equivalent unit*
ACMATE503 Carry out post-mortem examination of a research animal (Now ACMATE 511 – code updated at E & E)		
National Validation Meeting	Element and PC – changes • PC1.5 Change PC to Confirm indicators of death in animals	Adopted PC changes • 1.5 Confirm indicators of death in animals

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
(Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	- Add new element 3 – removed from ACMATE504 (in appropriately placed) - Renumber elements and PCs in element 4 PE – changes - Make two post-mortem examinations – delete reference to two species KE – changes - remove 2nd level bullet points relating to state/ territory legislation – too repetitive - add – relevance of background or phenotype and how these impact on post-mortem findings - add – disposal of biological waste	- New element 3 – Identify and handle a range of body parts in research animals PE – changes - prepared for and carried out at least two post-mortem examinations of research animals KE – changes - key requirements of relevant state or territory legislation and regulations, relating to conducting post-mortem examinations - relevance of background or phenotype and how these impact on post-mortem findings - requirements for the correct preparation, labelling, packaging *and disposal* of biological and potentially hazardous samples Adopted - Equivalent unit
ACMATE504 Administer anaesthesia and perform surgery on animals for scientific purposes		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Element and PC – changes - Delete element 4 – move PC4.5 to new element 5 – renumbered element 4 (renumber elements 5-7) KE - Add content relevant to element 4 to KE Equivalence discussed – Equivalent unit	Adopted - removed element 4 and renumbered following elements KE – added - location and features of anatomical and physiological structures, including: - integument and facial structures - musculoskeletal structures - digestive system structures and organs - reproductive system, organs and structures Adopted - Equivalent unit
ACMATE505 Carry out advanced breeding procedures		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	No further changes made – previous changes to KE re genetics - approved	No further changes needed
ACMATE506 Assist to collect and transfer embryos of mice		

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Prerequisite – none required as per consultation suggestion KE – change 5 Freedoms to 5 Domains	Adopted • KE –*5 Freedoms* changed to *5 Domains* - relevant principles of animal welfare and ethics including the 3 Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement) and the 5 Domains
ACMATE509 Perform caesarean procedures on mice or rats (revised title)		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Revise title – not just rederivations Remove element 2 (natural births) – covered in breeding procedures ACMATE505 Remove KE points that are not needed Equivalence discussed – Equivalent unit	Adopted • Title changed to - Perform caesarean procedures on mice or rats • Element 2 (natural births) removed as the focus of the unit is on caesarean births • Adjustments to KE to reflect changes made Equivalence discussed – Equivalent unit
ACMATE508 Monitor and maintain containment and exclusion procedures in animal facilities		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	No further changes required Equivalence discussed – No equivalent unit Agreement that the unit is indicative AQF level 5	Adopted Equivalence – No equivalent unit
ACMATE403 Conduct non-surgical procedures on animals		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Indicative AQF level discuss – revised from level 5 to level 4	Adopted – code to be changed to reflect indicative AQF level 4
ACMATE510 Review and monitor research proposals for an Animal Ethics Committee (new title – changed from Assist with the review of ethics in an animal research proposal)		

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
Primary Industry Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM), Vic	It appears that both these units are for the diploma, but my comment is that ACMATE5X1 seems more of a level 4 unit and the words "Assist with" in the unit title is mismatched with Diploma/Cert IV and suggest an amendment to "Contribute to" or ... the review of ethics in an animal research proposal or more simply "Review the ethics of an animal research proposal".	The unit was reviewed by the SME Validation working group – see comments below Title changed to *Review and monitor research proposals for an Animal Ethics Committee*
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Revise title and extend focus of unit - Minor wording changes to PCs - PC1.3 - change update to apply - PC1.4 - reorder the PC - PC2.1 add new PC - PC3.1 – remove risk assessment Add new element 5 to cover – *monitoring research – use PCs from element 3 in ACMATE5X2* KE – add relevant points from identified in meeting from *ACMATE5X2*	Adopted Title changed to *Review and monitor research proposals for an Animal Ethics Committee* Changes to PCs - 1.3 Apply knowledge of relevant industry codes, regulations and requirements of the organisation's AEC - 1.4 Review the ethical use and treatment of animals in a research proposal *using organisational procedures or tools* - *2.1 Assess potential benefit of proposal against the expected impact on the animals* (new) - Element 5 – Monitor approved animal research *(new)* KE – points relevant to element 5 added from ACMATE5X2 No equivalent unit
ACMATE5X2 Contribute to ethical treatment of animals in research facilities (deleted)		
Primary Industry Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM), Vic	The unit is about monitoring, informing, reporting and responding. This is really about managing the ethical treatment which is more than contributing. Suggest title change to Manage ethical treatment of animals in research facilities.	The unit was reviewed by the SME Validation working group – see comments below
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Suggestion during consultation stage to make this unit a core in the Diploma – referred to SME validation workshop	SME Validation working group considered some content in this unit overlapped with ACMATE501 Manage compliance in animal technology. Relevant sections (element 3 and KE) moved to ACMATE510 – see above. This unit is no longer required and will not be put forward for endorsement to the AISC.

Summary of feedback on skill sets

Skill set titles and units updated in view of feedback.

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
ACMSS00017 Animal Ethics Skill Set (revised title)		
National Validation Meeting (Industry QLD, ACT, NSW, WA, VIC. RTOs, VIC & SA)	Revise title ACMATE5X2 Contribute to ethical treatment of animals in research facilities - now deleted. Remove from skill set	Adopted • Title now reads: Animal Ethics Skill Set. • One unit Skill Set - Unit removed - ACMATE5X2 Contribute to ethical treatment of animals in research facilities. Unit kept – ACMATE510 Review and monitor research proposals for an Animal Ethics Committee

Summary of feedback on components proposed for deletion

Not applicable