

Medicinal Crops Project

Key dates*

October 2019

Draft skill standards available for feedback on the Skills Impact website. Free consultation workshops will also take place.

February 2020

The redrafted documents will be available for comment and validation.

June 2020

Final drafts submitted to the Australian Industry and Skills Committee for endorsement.

* Please check website for updates

Want to be involved in defining the skills standards for this sector?

You have the opportunity to play a key role in defining the skills standards of job roles in medicinal crops, supporting future learners and industry as a whole.

Visit skillsimpact.com.au to:

- Provide input on the project so far
- Register for any upcoming events
- Sign up for newsletter updates

Please feel welcome to contact the project manager, Ruth, directly on 03 9321 3526.

We also welcome feedback about current gaps in training and future trends for industry as a whole.

We are passionate about workforce development and the need for industry to have their say in the skills standards of their workforce. We know from our work that a competent employee is a more knowledgeable, confident, safe and productive worker.

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Help define the national skills standards for the expanding medicinal crops sector.

Medicinal crops are becoming more common in Australia, with the introduction of new legislation allowing the production of cannabis for medical purposes. If you have skills in this sector, your expertise is required. Industry is leading this project to identify the skills and specialist knowledge required for medicinal cropping, capturing this in units of competency and qualifications.

Why is this project happening?

Medicinal crops are a rapidly growing industry in many countries around the world. Medicinal cannabis is now recognised as a natural and effective medicine to treat numerous symptoms and medical conditions. Opium Poppies have long been used as a source for pain relief in pharmaceuticals.

As a result, new skills are emerging for growing and harvesting the crops, maintaining their security, and for understanding and implementing compliance and government regulations.

Poppies and cannabis are high value crops, so product consistency and quality are key to the sector's continuing development. In addition, different strains of plant are grown for different medicinal purposes, requiring specific skills for monitoring sampling and testing.

The Agriculture and Production Horticulture Industry Reference Committee is overseeing this project, as part of their responsibility to support engagement with the sector, and to ensure the project meets industry stakeholder needs.