

## Communique

Meeting No: 2020.01

2 March 2020

The Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical (FBP) Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met at the Hyatt Place Hotel, Essendon Fields on 2 March 2020. Present at the meeting were IRC members, guests and representatives from Skills Impact.

### **FBP IRC 2020 Annual Update Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work**

The FBP IRC discussed the draft of the 2020 Annual Update to the Skills Forecast that was presented, and suggested amendments and additions. This IRC has reviewed the guidance for the Annual Update to Skills Forecasts and Program of Works process and decided to develop this at a strategic level while addressing the information requests outlined in the guidance. Much of the information being requested is not currently available to the IRC. Where relevant and in keeping with the strategic approach of the IRC, additional data will be developed during 2020 for the next Annual Update.

### **Committee membership and future planning**

The current Chair of the FBP IRC, Anne Astin, advised that she will resign from the role at the end of 2020. A letter received from the Australian Industry and Skills Committee to IRC Chairs confirmed an extension for all IRC members for 1 further year beyond the initial term. The 2019 update to the IRC Operating Framework was reviewed, however questions were raised about the status of the Framework. The expert member from the pet food and stock feed industry has resigned her position on this IRC and a potential replacement has applied to join the FBP IRC for the AISC to consider.

### **Food and Beverage Processing Project**

A progress report on this project was provided and members were requested to continue to encourage their industries to comment on the proposed changes to these qualifications. Consultation with stakeholders from various industries, training providers and other stakeholders is underway during February and March. Workshops have already been held in most states and two webinars have been conducted. The initial proposal for change includes deleting one qualification and around 20 units, superseding two qualifications, creating two new skill sets and realigning the AQF levels of many units of competency. Only around 20 units are likely to remain unchanged. Feedback received so far has indicated some areas where additional work is required. This may trigger a need for a second *public consultation phase* before the project can move to *Validation*. Feedback on proposed changes will be accepted until 27 March.

## **Response to submission about baking training resources**

Members were updated on the progress of the submission to the AISC to develop training materials for the baking industry. This IRC is now awaiting advice from the AISC about how to progress this issue.

## **AISC Survey of IRCs**

Information about the responses to these surveys was provided to members. This report highlighted that IRCs are satisfied with the performance of SSOs, including praise for their expertise and their approach to communicating. Many respondents referred to the overwhelming amount of voluntary work involved in this system and confusion about what “industry-led” means in practice. The report describes some suggestions for increased effectiveness including the role, responsibilities and composition of IRCs.

## **Next meeting**

It was proposed that the next meeting of this IRC be a face-to-face meeting in August 2020.