

# Communique

Meeting No: 2021.02

25 August 2021

The Animal Care and Management Industry Reference Committee (ACM IRC) met online on 25 August 2021. Present at the meeting were IRC members, guests and representatives from Skills Impact.

## **ACM IRC 2021 Case for Endorsement Horse Care Project**

The IRC considered the draft of the 2021 Horse Care Project Case for Endorsement. The IRC were informed of two recent matters, raised by Victorian Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and two State Training Authorities, regarding the performance evidence of two units of competency. The IRC discussed and proposed some modifications for consideration to resolve these issues. Pending the resolution of these issues, the IRC gave provisional approval of the 2021 Horse Care Project Case for Endorsement.

## **ACM IRC 2022 Skills Forecast**

The IRC considered the submission of an updated Skills Forecast in 2022. The IRC discussed the potential benefit to industry and the continuity it would provide if potential reforms are introduced. The IRC agreed a submission of a Skills Forecast covering industry issues, challenges, emerging skills, and training (both through VET and informal/unaccredited providers) would provide value to industry.

## **Industry Round up**

All IRC members and guests provided an update on industry matters. A range of challenges are being faced across different professions. Mental health and staff wellbeing remain a concern for people in the veterinary field under stress with Covid lockdowns and increased purchasing of companion animals. Animal Technology qualifications are not being delivered in NSW due to lack of providers. Zoos are having to reduce their workforce due to fewer people visiting, raising animal welfare concerns. Meanwhile, labour shortages are being experienced across many other animal care sectors. Covid is also impacting on services provided to remote communities. Response to the new animal care qualifications has been strong in Queensland, which is experiencing higher than usual enrolment numbers.

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 26 October 2021.