



Australian
Industry and
Skills Committee

Communique

17 November 2016

The Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) met on 17 November 2016 in Darwin, Northern Territory. As the meeting coincided with the Australian Training Awards (ATA) the Committee hosted a lunch for ATA finalists and previous award winners. The lunch provided an opportunity for members to hear first-hand Australia's best students, apprentices, employers and training providers talk about their achievements in the vocational education and training sector.

AISC chair, Mr John Pollaers, welcomed Dr Don Zoellner who has been nominated by the Northern Territory government to be a member of the AISC. Mr Pollaers thanked the outgoing Northern Territory nominee, Mr Andy Bruyn, for his enthusiastic contribution to the work of the AISC. Ms Patricia Neden, Chief Executive Officer of Innovation Business Skills Australia (IBSA), also tendered her resignation due to IBSA's appointment as the new Service Skills Organisation supporting Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) in the manufacturing sector. The Chair acknowledged Ms Neden's significant contribution to the Committee over the last 18 months.

Review of Industry Reference Committees

The Committee was encouraged by the strong progress being made on the reviews of structure and membership of its network of IRCs. In particular, Members acknowledged the high level of industry engagement in the review. Industry has seized the opportunity to influence who will represent them in addressing the skills needs of their industry, ensuring that the reviewed IRCs have the benefit of a broad cross-section of industry stakeholders and perspectives.

The Committee considered the proposed structure and membership of a number of IRCs and made amendments in response to industry feedback. The following IRCs were endorsed:

- ESI Transmission, Distribution and Rail;
- ESI Generation;
- Electrotechnology;
- Gas; and

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker.

Details of the new IRCs will be published on the AISC website once all nominees have been advised of the outcome. The next meeting of Chairs of IRCs is scheduled for 3 March 2017 in Melbourne. The AISC looks forward to meeting new chairs of the refreshed IRCs.

IRC Workplans

The Committee welcomed receipt of the IRC four-year workplans. Each workplan provides an analysis of the skills needs of the relevant industry sector and a recommendation about how those needs can best be met through a schedule of review and update of the relevant Training Packages.

The Committee noted that the first iteration of workplans provide some strong examples of industry initiating collaborative responses to emerging issues. The workplans also demonstrate clear opportunities for fast-tracking Training Package development work in some instances and opportunities for cross-industry collaboration to respond to emerging skills needs and disruptive technologies that are impacting a number of industry sectors.

Training Package Development

The Committee considered nine Business Cases submitted by IRCs and agreed to commission the following Training Package development work based on the case for change presented:

- *CPP Property Services Training Package*: to update two qualifications related to fire protection inspection and testing;
- *CPC Construction, Plumbing and Services Training Package* to update components related to the High Risk Work Licence;
- *BSB Business Services Training Package*: to update purchasing qualifications;
- *FSN Financial Services Training Package*: to update provisions for payroll, accounting and bookkeeping and business ethics and conduct;
- *ICT Information and Communications Technology Training Package*: to update telecommunications provisions;
- *FSK Foundation Skills Training Package*: to improve the utility and flexibility of the training package;
- *FWP Forest and Wood Products Training Package* to reflect the use of mechanical harvester technology;
- improving safety, quality and consistency in the delivery of equine training, across five training packages, addressing issues raised in the *Training in Equine Programs in Australia* report of the Australian Skills Quality Authority; and
- *RGR08 Racing Training Package*: to improve animal welfare provisions in the greyhound racing industry.

Relevant Training Package components will be transitioned concurrently to the *2012 Standards for Training Packages*. The Committee encouraged stakeholders to continue to contribute to this important work to ensure skills needs of these industries are appropriately reflected in the relevant Training Packages. The National Schedule will be updated shortly with further detail.

The Committee also reinforced the importance of all cases for change coming forward for consideration providing advice about how the proposed changes would address the reforms

to training packages agreed by Ministers in November 2015. These reforms are provided on the Department of Education and Training website at <https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/communique-coag-industry-and-skills-council-meetings-skills-ministers-20-november-2015>.

Training Package Development and Endorsement Process Policy

Following broad discussion of this policy work and associated consultation, the Committee endorsed the revised *Training Package Development and Endorsement Process Policy*. The Policy, including links to relevant templates, will be accessible through the AISC website shortly.

Next meeting

The AISC will meet next in Melbourne on 23 February 2017.