

FOOD, FIBRE AND TIMBER INDUSTRIES TRAINING COUNCIL COVID-19 UPDATE – MAY 2020

Industry training councils provide a direct link between Western Australian industry and the State Training Board. This infographic summarises industry feedback to the training council in March to May 2020.

JOBS LOST/IDLED*

Forestry and timber processing
Dressmaker/tailor
Laundry and dry cleaning
Sewing machinist & canvas goods manufacturer
Hospitality and sales staff in wineries
Part time and casual workers in retail nurseries and landscaping
Wood products and furniture making



JOBS IN DEMAND*

Food and meat processing

*Between March - May 2020 there were redundancies, suspensions, terminations or reduced hours.

*Between March - May 2020 there was increased demand for workers or increased hours for existing workers.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 MEASURES



JOBKEEPER AND OTHER ASSISTANCE MEASURES

- Small businesses in the wood products and furniture making industry are confused by the range of assistance measures. These businesses need to be provided with clear information on workers compensation, taxation and insurance. FFTITC's website aims to do this.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has established the *Jobs in WA Food & Ag* website to provide jobseekers and employers with information about jobs in WA's primary industries.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

- RTOs are increasing their online delivery. This may have funding implications for private RTOs.
- Some micro businesses are not complying with COVID-19 health precautions. FFTITC recommends a targeted program for this group.
- The existing shearing shortage may be exacerbated if interstate and New Zealand shearers are unable to travel to WA when the shearing season commences in August.

"As a matter of urgency, states need to collaborate to identify all online resources [for TAFE colleges] available in Australia and share them."

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS



SKILL SETS

- The forestry industry needs skill sets for new workers engaged during the COVID-19 recovery period. The industry has already identified the necessary skill sets and is keen to develop online delivery for critical units of competency.
- The forestry industry is seeking funding for upskilling workers retained on JobKeeper.
- Two new skill sets have been added to the MST Training Package – Infection Control and Introduction to Laundry - which are being adapted for online delivery.



PROCEDURAL CHANGE

- The delivery of on-the-job training and assessment of baking apprenticeships has been restricted and there have been adjustments to training package requirements, delaying apprenticeship completion. Increased funding to smaller retail bakeries may be needed.
- The forestry and timber processing industry is requesting fast-tracked training and assessment to upskill its workforce and maintain the skills base.
- Wood products and furniture making businesses are informally partnering to maintain apprentice employment.

UPSKILLING AND RESKILLING



DRESSMAKING AND TAILORING

- To help maintain the dressmaking and tailoring industry, FFTITC recommends that government order medical PPE from local providers. This may require some upskilling.



LAUNDRY

- Displaced workers from various sectors could complete the Infection Control and Introduction to Laundry skill sets to gain employment in the sector.



FORESTRY AND SHEARING

- New forestry skill sets will enable displaced workers to enter the industry during the COVID-19 recovery period.
- Increased funding for shearing training could encourage displaced workers to enter the shearing industry next August.

“The Laundry Association Australia has been trying to bring awareness to the lack of training and monitoring as per the Laundry Standard AS/NZS 4146 2000 relating to training in infection control.”