SKILLSIQ

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Draft 1 – Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice

Consultation Guide

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Contents

Introduction 3
Project Background 3
Consultation Activities and Timelines 6
About this Consultation Guide 6
Anaesthetic Technology Qualification 7
List of Anaesthetic Technology Units and Prerequisites 7
Qualification Mapping 7
Unit of Competency Mapping 8
Questions for Consideration 10
Appendix A: Training Package Unit of Competency Terminology Guide 12

Introduction

SkillsIQ is a not-for-profit Skills Service Organisation (SSO) supporting industry in developing standards to equip the people-facing workforce with the right skills for jobs now and into the future. SkillsIQ is funded by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment to support the Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) responsible for the development and maintenance of Training Packages in the following sectors:

- Community Services
- Health
- Local Government
- Public Sector
- Floristry
- Hairdressing and Beauty Services
- Funeral Services
- Retail Services
- Sport, Fitness and Recreation
- Tourism, Travel and Hospitality.

IRCs drive the process of Training Package development and are made up of people with experience, skills and knowledge of their particular industry sectors. IRCs are responsible for the provision of strategic input and advice that represent the needs of their workforce, and for ensuring Training Package Products reflect those needs.

Project Background

The update of the existing nationally recognised Anaesthetic Technology Qualification and the existing seven Units of Competency packaged within the HLT Health Training Package has been commissioned by the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) under the direction of the Technicians Support Services IRC.

The 2019 Technicians Support Services Industry Skills Forecast (ISF) identified that anaesthetic technology was an area of concern that had a direct impact on stakeholders and for which there was a significant need for an update. The IRC proposed updating the *HLT57915 Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology* Qualification and seven associated Units of Competency relating to anaesthetic technology job roles.

This Qualification was released in 2015 but, since then, there have been extensive changes in the job roles' scope of practice in terms of standards and protocols, new ideas and techniques, digital technologies and terminology used within the discipline of anaesthetics. The Qualification therefore needs to reflect current industry practice and knowledge to equip existing and new workers to perform their job roles in an efficient and effective manner providing for safe patient management in the anaesthetics sub-sector.

The anaesthesia environment is continuously evolving in terms of procedures and techniques to ensure both safety and quality of patient care. One of the primary reference documents that underpins this is the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists' *ANZCA PS08 – Statement on the Assistant for the Anaesthetist*, which was significantly revised shortly after the 2015 version of the *HLT57915 Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology* was released.

Technical Advisory Committee

To inform the update of the *Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology* Qualification and seven existing Units of Competency, an Anaesthetic Technology Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed. The Anaesthetic Technology TAC reports to the Technicians Support Services IRC and is made up of stakeholders and subject matter experts from across Australia who provide:

- guidance at the national level to ensure Training Package Products are flexible and responsive to changing needs and practices
- specialist advice and strategic direction in relation to stakeholder feedback and issues relevant to their sector
- views and feedback on behalf of the sector/organisation they represent
- facilitation of communication and consultation with others, including other members of their organisations, association members and other networks.

The aim of the update is to ensure that the Anaesthetic Training Package Products reflect current professional standards and practice and to ensure that industry has access to graduates who have the requisite skills and knowledge of current industry content, language, and terminology.

Updates to the Qualification

- Industry Skills Forecasts and stakeholder consultation have identified that the current structure and packaging of the *Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology* Qualification do not contain adequate coverage of new terminology. This has been updated to ensure continuing alignment with the professional standards required by industry.
- The Qualification title has been updated to *Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice.*
- The job role has been updated to **Anaesthetic Allied Health Practitioner** in terms of defining the skills and knowledge that this Qualification will provide.
- The Qualification description has been updated to include 600 hours of work placement as stated below:
    - ‘To achieve this Qualification, the candidate must have completed at least 600 hours of work placement as detailed in the Assessment Requirements of the Units of Competency’.
- Entry requirements have been updated to include the following:
    - Entry to this Qualification is open to individuals who:
        - have completed Australian Year 12 English and Science-related subjects (or the equivalent); and
        - hold a current first aid and CPR certificate.
- The Packaging Rules remain the same with the requirement that 17 Units need to be completed, of which:
    - 15 are core Units, and
    - 2 are elective Units.
- The list of core Units has been updated to better reflect the current skills and knowledge required by an Anaesthetic Allied Health Practitioner.
- The list of elective Units has been updated to include Units of Competency that may be relevant in different settings.

Units of Competency to be updated:

The following are the **current** seven Anaesthetic Technology Units of Competency which have been updated in terms of content and Unit codes:

- HLTANA001 Prepare clients for anaesthesia
- HLTANA002 Monitor clients during anaesthesia
- HLTANA003 Assist with airway management
- HLTANA004 Respond to anaesthesia-related emergencies
- HLTANA005 Maintain quality and supply of anaesthetic equipment and consumables
- HLTANA006 Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia
- HLTANA007 Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment.

Updated Units in the Qualification:

These seven Units which have been updated are now as follows:

- HLTANA008 Prepare patients for anaesthesia
- HLTANA009 Monitor patients during anaesthesia
- HLTANA010 Assist with airway management
- HLTANA011 Respond to anaesthesia-related emergencies
- HLTANA012 Maintain quality and supply of anaesthetic equipment and consumables
- HLTANA013 Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia
- HLTANA014 Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment.

Consultation Activities and Timelines

National consultation for Draft 1 will be open from **Wednesday, 16th September to Friday, 16th October 2020**. During this period input will be sought on the following Training Package Products relating to the *Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice*.

- 1 Qualification
- 7 Units of Competency and associated Assessment Requirements.

SkillsIQ will be undertaking a number of key activities to engage community stakeholders and VET professionals. Further details are posted on the SkillsIQ website here:

Anaesthetic Technology Current Projects Page.

Feedback can also be provided **online** via the SkillsIQ Online Feedback Forum, accessed at:

Anaesthetic Technology Feedback Forum page.

When accessing the Feedback Forum, please first refer to the 'How To' guide located on the page. It will provide directions for leaving and submitting comments.

Following the close of the consultation period, feedback received will be collated and evaluated. This feedback will inform the development of the Validation Draft.

To remain up to date with project developments, please subscribe to SkillsIQ at: http://www.skillsiq.com.au/Subscribetoournewsletter.aspx

About this Consultation Guide

This Guide, which should be read in conjunction with the applicable Draft Training Package Products, provides:

- A list of Draft 1 Training Package Products (1 Qualification and 7 Units of Competency and associated Assessment Requirements)
- Mapping of Qualifications and Units
- Key consultation questions on which SkillsIQ seeks feedback to provide information to the IRC and TAC.

Contact details

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Anaesthetic Technology Qualification

Qualification Code	Qualification Title
HLT57920	Diploma in Anaesthetic Technology and Practice

List of Anaesthetic Technology Units and Prerequisites

Unit Code	Unit Title	Prerequisite(s)
HLTANA008	Prepare patients for anaesthesia	Nil
HLTANA009	Monitor patients during anaesthesia	Nil
HLTANA010	Assist with airway management	Nil
HLTANA011	Respond to anaesthesia related emergencies	Nil
HLTANA012	Maintain quality and supply of anaesthetic equipment and consumables	Nil
HLTANA013	Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia	Nil
HLTANA014	Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment	Nil

Qualification Mapping

A Qualification is mapped as equivalent (E) to another one when it provides the same skill and knowledge outcomes, including when:

- Core Units remain the same or are replaced by similar Units which provide the same skill and knowledge outcomes
- Numbers of electives remain the same or are raised or reduced slightly.

A Qualification is mapped as not equivalent (N) when it provides different skill and knowledge outcomes, including when:

- Units have been added to the core which provide additional mandatory skill and knowledge outcomes
- Units have been removed from the core which reduce mandatory skill and knowledge outcomes
- A significant number of additional elective Units are required
- Entry requirements are altered, creating significant differences to the structure of the Qualification.

Previous Qualification Code and Title	New Qualification Code and Title	Comment in relation to Qualification E = equivalent N = not equivalent
HLT57915 Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology	HLT57920 Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice	N Packaging of core Units changed Electives removed Updated Unit codes

Unit of Competency Mapping

A Unit of Competency is mapped as equivalent (E) when:

- It provides the same skill and knowledge outcomes
- Elements and associated Performance Criteria have remained the same, but are better expressed
- Knowledge Requirements have remained the same but are better expressed.

A Unit of Competency is mapped as not equivalent (N) when:

- It provides different skill and knowledge outcomes
- Elements and/or Performance Criteria have been added or removed
- Performance Evidence or Knowledge Requirements have been added or removed.

Previous Unit Code and Title	New Unit Code and Title	Comment in relation to Unit E = equivalent N = not equivalent
HLTANA001 Prepare clients for anaesthesia	HLTANA008 Prepare patients for anaesthesia	N Changes to Unit title, Elements, Performance Criteria, Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence.
HLTANA002 Monitor clients during anaesthesia	HLTANA009 Monitor patients during anaesthesia	N Changes to Unit title, Elements, Performance Criteria, Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence.
HLTANA003 Assist with airway management	HLTANA010 Assist with airway management	N Changes to Elements, Performance Criteria, Performance Evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions.
HLTANA004 Respond to anaesthesia related emergencies	HLTANA011 Respond to anaesthesia related emergencies	N Changes to Performance Criteria, Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence.
HLTANA005 Maintain quality and supply of anaesthetic equipment and consumables	HLTANA012 Maintain quality and supply of anaesthetic equipment and consumables	N Changes to Performance Criteria, Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence.

Previous Unit Code and Title	New Unit Code and Title	Comment in relation to Unit E = equivalent N = not equivalent
HLTANA006 Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia	HLTANA013 Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia	N Changes to Performance Criteria, Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence.
HLTANA007 Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment	HLTANA014 Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment	N Changes to Performance Criteria, Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence.

Questions for Consideration

The following questions have been developed to guide feedback for Draft 1 of the Anaesthetic Technology Training Package Products.

Qualification – Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice

- The TAC has proposed a minimum of 600 hours of work placement. Is this a satisfactory number of hours? Should there be more? Should there be fewer?
- The TAC has suggested the following entry requirements:
  - Entry to this Qualification is open to individuals:
    - who have completed Australian Year 12 English and Science-related subjects (or the equivalent); and
    - who hold a current first aid and CPR certificate.
  - Are these entry requirements too restrictive? Too lenient? If either too restrictive or too lenient, what should the entry requirements be?

Suite of Units of Competency

- Are the Packaging Rules for the core and elective composition of Units attainable at a Diploma level?
- Are all draft Units required? Should any be deleted?
- Are there any essential prerequisites that should be nominated?
- Are there any additional Units of Competency required?

Titles and Application Statements - Units of Competency

- Do the Titles reflect the skills being described? Could any be changed to better indicate what the Units cover?
- Does the Application Statement provide a clear and accurate description of the skills being described?

Elements and Performance Criteria

- Do the Elements and Performance Criteria accurately describe what people do in Anaesthetic Allied Health Practitioner job roles? If not, what could be added?
- Do the Performance Criteria adequately describe the level of proficiency?

Performance Evidence

- Would the types of evidence prove that a person is competent in all the Unit outcomes, including Performance Criteria, Foundation Skills and Knowledge?
- Is the suggested volume (sufficiency) of evidence appropriate? Too little, too much?
- Are the statements clear? Would assessors understand exactly what they must do?

Knowledge Evidence

- What is the essential knowledge required of an individual in order to perform the tasks described in the Performance Criteria? Is the Knowledge Evidence requirement specific enough?

- Is there anything which should be added or deleted?
- What is the breadth and depth of knowledge required? Is this described well enough to assist assessors understand the scope?

Assessment Conditions

- Are the nominated environments appropriate?
- Are the statements clear? Would assessors understand what they must provide for assessment?

Appendix A: Training Package Unit of Competency Terminology Guide

Units of Competency specify the skills and knowledge a learner needs in order to complete a work task. Each Unit of Competency has associated Assessment Requirements, which detail what a learner must demonstrate and know, in order to be deemed competent, along with any special conditions which apply to the assessment of competency.

UNIT CODE	Unique code which identifies the Unit of Competency
UNIT TITLE	The Unit Title is a brief statement of the outcome of the Unit of Competency, i.e. what the task is that learners will be able to complete once they are deemed competent
APPLICATION	The application summarises: • the content of the Unit of Competency and the skill area it addresses • any relationship with other Units of Competency • any licensing requirements or relevant legislation • the Unit of Competency's scope, purpose and operation in different contexts, for example, by showing how it applies in the workplace.
PREREQUISITE UNIT	Prerequisites are other Units of Competency or in some cases licences, etc. that a learner must complete before undertaking this Unit of Competency. This may be in order to provide underpinning skills or knowledge that is essential for a learner to undertake this Unit.
ELEMENTS	The Elements are the basic themes of the Unit of Competency. They describe the significant functions that form part of the work task that the Unit of Competency covers.
PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	The Performance Criteria specify the required steps that enable the learner to undertake the work task.
Assessment Requirements	
PERFORMANCE EVIDENCE	Identifies what a learner must demonstrate in order to be deemed competent at the work task.
KNOWLEDGE EVIDENCE	Identifies what a learner needs to know to perform the work task effectively.

ASSESSMENT CONDITIONS	Assessment Conditions provide the context for the Unit of Competency, describing essential operating conditions that must be present for assessment, depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the items required, and local industry and regional contexts. They may specify any of the following: • The conditions under which competency must be assessed including variables such as the assessment environment or necessary equipment or tools • Whether or not the Unit must be assessed in the workplace or may also be assessed via simulation • Resource implications, for example access to particular equipment, infrastructure or situations • Any required characteristics of the assessor, e.g. whether the assessor must hold a higher Qualification in that field, etc.