

educator news April 2023

Our new Jobs and Skills Council (JSC)

As you are no doubt aware, HumanAbility is the newly formed JSC for the health and human services sectors. HumanAbility comprises around 30 organisations, including industry organisations, employers, unions, and consumer organisations. They recently hosted an introductory webinar, 'Providing the health system with a strategic voice in vocational education and training', which is available to view here:

[Providing the health system with a strategic voice in VET](#)

HumanAbility has promised to work with industry stakeholders to:

- research and identify the job demands
- determine the current and future skills that employers require
- develop qualifications and training packages that meet the needs of the industry
- lead workforce development initiatives.

As part of the above undertaking, HumanAbility is currently calling on industry to provide feedback on the following questions:

- *What are the burning bridges in your industry area? What issues if not addressed in the next year would impact on your organisation and the people that you provide support and services to? What responses are needed most urgently? What workers are in shortest supply and need access to training? How can we ensure that appropriate training is available in the right places to ensure that workers can safely enter the workforce?*
- *What are the key changes in direction for your industry or business? How might this impact on demand for workforce and the skills that workers will need?*
- *If you are an education provider, what elements of our training packages require consideration of change to make them more relevant to industry needs and educationally sound? What things don't make sense to you as an education provider? What things are missing or not given sufficient emphasis at present?*

Responses can be directed to the JSC via humanability@ahha.asn.au.

AMT has made a submission to Human Ability which you can access in full here:

[AMT submission to HumanAbility](#)

Our chief showstopper issue related to the assessment conditions for the new clinical practice units in the Certificate IV and Diploma. We have requested that these be urgently reviewed to make them less prescriptive and to support the massage industry to establish traineeships and access the associated incentives which would support workforce development.

The submission also includes data from successive workforce surveys which show key industry trends that may be of interest to RTO educators.

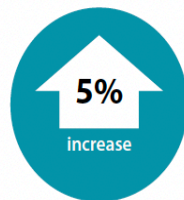


The key 5-year trends emerging from AMT's workforce data are:

- shift towards solo self-employment and concomitant shift away from subcontracting to established allied health and multidisciplinary practices



- shift towards home-based practices



- shift towards solo practitioners working in commercial premises



- increase in number of practitioners reporting that massage therapy is their sole source of income



- increase in number of practitioners reporting that massage therapy provides them with a comfortable or excellent income



Training package discussion group

AMT is hosting an RTO discussion group session on **18 May at 11.00am** to unpack some of the units in the new training package. Please mark the date and time in your calendar and look out for registration details soon.

HLTMSG016 training and assessment resources

You will be pleased and relieved to hear that we have nearly finalised the suite of resources for the new competency, 'Apply principles of pain neuroscience'. This learning and assessment resource package will include a full suite of assessment tools (learner and assessor versions), mapping documents, study plans, and unit equipment and resource requirements to help support RTOs deliver quality and compliant training and assessment.

These resources will be available for purchase from AMT in May for a reasonable licensing fee.

Social media standard

Over the past 5 years there has been a notable rise in the incidence of complaints relating to use of social media by massage therapists, particularly in relation to infringement of privacy and professional boundaries. In response, AMT convened a committee in late 2022 to draft a social media standard for the AMT Code of Practice. Consultation on the draft standard is now complete and the Committee is working to finalise the policy based on feedback received. We anticipate that the new standard will be published in the AMT Code of Practice in June. This is the first new policy to be included in the Code since 2012 so it is a bit of a watershed moment in its evolution.