

# FUTURENOW 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\*

Performing arts  
Visual arts and design  
Screen, media and publishing  
Festival and events  
Hospitality  
Accommodation providers  
Tourism and travel  
Sport, recreation and sectors allied to racing  
Printing and graphic arts



## JOBS IN DEMAND\*

Takeaway and food delivery services  
Technology services to move business and the workforce online  
Photographers and videographers for digitalising gallery and museum collections

\*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.

*“Sectors under FutureNow’s coverage bore the first wave of economic contraction due to government directives to close.”*

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 MEASURES



### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Many tourism, hospitality and events and sport, recreation and racing workers are unlikely to be eligible for JobKeeper as they are hired on a seasonal, short-term or casual basis.
- JobKeeper is paid as a reimbursement - some small to medium cafes and tour businesses do not have sufficient cash flows to cover salaries up front, so cannot access JobKeeper.
- Printing and graphic arts employers have reduced workers’ hours and are using the JobKeeper wage subsidy to maintain the workforce.



### SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Government restrictions on non-essential gatherings shut down pubs, clubs, hotels, cinemas, gyms, indoor sporting centres, galleries, museums, libraries and casinos and led to job losses in hospitality and events, and reduced business for industries that supply them.
- Limits on the number of people at private and public gatherings led to further closures of many creative and leisure businesses.
- Industry sectors that could remain open have implemented strict hygiene and infection control measures.
- From 18 May 2020, food and beverage businesses will be able to serve 20 patrons. However, it may not be viable for some hospitality businesses to open for this number of patrons.



## TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

- International, state and regional border closures heavily impacted travel, tourism, events, sport and recreation with secondary impact on creative industries.
- A large travel agency temporarily stood down 3,800 workers, whilst another travel agency announced 275 redundancies.
- The tourism sector shut down through travel restrictions and border closures, affecting over 100,000 jobs in WA.
- From 18 May 2020, intrastate regional borders will be reconfigured to allow some non-essential travel within the four regions of WA. Industry welcomes the easing of the restriction.



## REGULATORY CHANGE

- The Fair Work Commission varied the *Hospitality Industry (General) Award 2010* and *Restaurant Industry Award* by reducing minimum hour requirements and suspending rules on job classifications. This temporary variation gives employers flexibility to help them retain staff during the COVID pandemic.

# INDUSTRY RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC



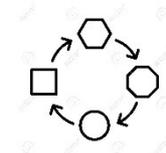
## ADVOCACY

- The creative industry's peak body leaders, major and minor arts organisations and sole practitioners unsuccessfully advocated for amendments to the JobKeeper legislation.
- The Media, Entertainment Arts Alliance (MEAA) continues to campaign for a broadening of JobKeeper criteria.
- SportsWest has advocated for the resumption of community sport to the State Government.
- The Australian Institute of Sport and Sport Australia have advocated for the resumption of elite sport and sport in general to the Federal Government.
- The Print and Visual Communication Association (peak body) has been active in lobbying governments for support and providing industrial relations and human resources advice to its members.



## TRAINING AND GUIDANCE

- The Australian Industry Skills Commission has developed a nationally-endorsed infection control skill set. The food services sector will be one of the first sectors targeted to undertake this training.
- In addition, WA has implemented a specialised COVID-19 training course – *The AHA Hospitality & Tourism COVID-19 Hygiene Course* is mandatory for staff employed at hospitality venues.
- Restaurant & Catering Australia have created a set of best practice guidelines to ensure businesses are safe in a post COVID-19 world.
- The printing and graphic arts, sports and physical recreation sectors have identified a need for infection control training and information for workers to create a safe environment for a full return to work.



## ADAPTATION

- The creative industries have maintained their audiences through a range of digital platforms. There has been a surge in demand for digital cultural specialists who can bridge the divide between technology and cultural knowledge by moving content online. To respond to this demand, the Australian Museums and Galleries Association is providing online training for the museum and gallery workforce to digitise collections.
- Surge demand for IT workers has been created as Australians increasingly work from home.
- The demand for digitalised product offerings and online experiences has risen, particularly in the retail sector and the conference and events sector. The IT sector has supported the transition by providing inexpensive template online retail systems and 'just in time' online training.