



ANIMAL WELFARE TRAINING IN THE AUSTRALIAN PROCESSING INDUSTRY

The Australian Meat Industry Council is the peak body representing meat processors in Australia and has a key role in developing and promoting animal welfare standards that aim to improve animal welfare and meet the expectations of stakeholders and customers.

The Meat Industry Training Council (MINTRAC), is supported by levies from processor membership in the Australian Meat Processor Corporation and was established to provide highly-valued products and services to the Australian Meat Industry in the areas of education and training.

Training is essential to ensure the meat industry remains innovative and adaptable and able to continually anticipate and respond to emerging industry needs and global challenges. Key meat industry objectives in relation to training include the continual improvement of Australia's meat industry education, training and associated systems and the enhancement of capability to provide a timely and flexible response to the needs of industry.

To underpin and support the implementation of these Standards, nationally accredited units of competency for stock handling and slaughter have been developed.

To date, it is estimated that over 550 Stock handlers, quality assurance personnel, training managers and slaughter floor supervisors have undertaken the training in animal welfare. Training is considered essential to ensuring the successful implementation of animal welfare standards.

Together, AMIC and MINTRAC have developed and implemented the following training programs :

- Overview Animal Welfare
- Oversee Humane Handling
- The Animal Welfare Officer Skill Set
- Stunning and Slaughter Units
- A series of information kits and training support materials are available including the :
 - the Stock handling training kit
 - the Humane slaughter training kit
 - Bobby Calf Handling Kit

The MINTRAC training network provides opportunity for processors to contribute to training initiatives, revise materials and develop new training ideas and resources.

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Future Training initiatives for the meat processing industry include:

- Updated animal handling kit incorporating the changes to the Standards
- Development of e-learning aids for animal welfare training
- Consideration of transport and on-farm information into processor and wider industry kits
- Development of animal welfare auditor training”

