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Certificate III in Circus Arts

RESPONSE FROM CIRCUS INDUSTRY FOCUS GROUP

Prior to COVID there was growth in the circus industry due to graduates developing new types of work and companies, and the expansion of existing businesses to meet demand. The performing arts sector in much of Australia is still in recovery after COVID. During this time, the sector has adapted and developed new engagement skills such as streaming and online performances.

In terms of employment opportunities and pathways, the industry has classified Certificate III as an introductory qualification that is the start of a career. Anticipated employment opportunities include: core circus foundation skills performer, ensemble member, assistant in properties and bump in/out.

Preferred skills for school leavers entering the sector:

- The skills and knowledge encompassed in Certificate III have been identified by industry professionals as the essential elementary introductory skills in circus.
- These skills are suitable for anyone wishing to undertake work in community or recreational circus, or in circus-based school activities.

Preferred pathway for school leavers entering the sector:

- Further study or industry mentorship is recommended for students on completion of the Certificate III so they can continue to learn sustainable skills for the industry.
- At Certificate IV and above level areas such as business, fitness, history, research skills will be introduced. These qualifications are required for those progressing through the industry and looking at solo work and starting their own business. There is no requirement for qualifications, however, it signifies the level of physical training and knowledge.
- National Institute of Circus Arts Australia (NICA) is the only organisation in Australia that has an accredited circus training and offer Certificate III in Circus Arts, Certificate IV in Circus Arts and Bachelor of Circus Arts. NICA works in partnership with Swinburne University for delivery.

- Currently the Certificate IV and above need to be completed in Melbourne, however there are plans to deliver this qualification from the Slipstream Circus facility in Tasmania in the future.

The sector supports the completion of Certificate III Circus Arts in school/college for the following reasons:

- It ensures a particular level and quality of training.
- The qualification provides a broad range of skills that is required by industry.



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