



VET and Circus Arts

Sector Summary

Prior to COVID, there was growth in the circus industry due to graduates developing new types of work and establishing companies. There was also an expansion of existing businesses to meet demand. However, the performing arts sector is still in recovery after COVID. The sector has adapted and developed new engagement skills such as streaming and online performances. Possible employment opportunities include core circus foundation skills performer, ensemble member, assistant in props and bump in/out.

Attributes for New Entrants

- The skills and knowledge included in the Certificate III in Circus Arts 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 Training and Pathways

- In terms of employment opportunities and pathways, the industry has classified Certificate III as an introductory qualification that is the start of a career.
- Further study or industry mentorship is recommended on completion of the Certificate III to ensure sustainable skill development for the industry.
- Training at Certificate IV and above will introduce business, fitness, history, and research skills. These qualifications are required for those progressing through the industry, aiming for solo work, and/or starting their own business. There is no requirement for these qualifications; however, completion signifies a particular 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 offers 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.

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