

Getting support during your traineeship

The best way to make sure you get the most from your training is to find out as much information as you can about traineeships and training in the meat industry. Following are some ideas and strategies to help you make informed choices about your training and to create a career in the meat industry.

Get to know the people involved in your training. If your employer is a Registered Training Organisation as well as an abattoir you will most likely be dealing with a Training Manager, and company-employed Trainer/Assessors. Find out who these people are, where their offices are located and make a note of phone numbers or email addresses should you need to contact them.

If your company uses an outside RTO, such as a TAFE or community college you will probably have a plant Training or Human Resource Manager, and a Trainer that works for the RTO who organises your training and assessment. Again, make yourself familiar with these people and make a note of any contact details you might need.

Ask lots of questions, especially during training sessions and assessments. Trainers, whether they are company employees, or employed by a RTO are happy to help answer any questions you might have, it is their job to support and guide your training. Most have a motto similar to “The only dumb question is the one you don’t ask”, so speak up. If you are not comfortable doing this in a class room environment, set aside some time to see your Trainer privately.

Make your Trainer aware if you feel you are ready to be assessed. If you do not receive an opportunity to be assessed soon after approaching your Trainer, ask a second time. Trainers are often very busy and responsible for a large workforce, so you may need to take some responsibility for your own training and progression, by being aware of where your training is up to and following up issues with your Trainer. If you feel you are not progressing at the pace you would like to you might want to discuss this with your Trainer to let him or her know about your concerns. If you don’t speak up training personnel will think you are happy with your progress.

Find out if there are any particular qualifications you need for a job or career pathway you would like to take on, and talk to your Trainer about how you might get these qualifications. For example, you might like to be a Quality Assurance (QA) Officer, and to do this you might need a Certificate IV Meat Processing (Quality Assurance). Also, you might like to talk to QA Officers at the plant and find out how they got to where they are.