Briefing Paper: Big Data Cross Sector Project
Prepared by PwC's Skills for Australia

About the Big Data Cross Sector Project
The Big Data Cross Sector Project, led by PwC's Skills for Australia, has reviewed the current and emerging developments in Big Data skills, particularly in relation to data management, data analytics and data driven decision-making, and identified related skills needs shared by multiple industry sectors. The objective of this project is to provide an evidence-based case and industry support for developing common training units to be used across multiple training packages. It is expected that this project will result in a significant reduction in duplication across the national VET system, and help to deliver a future fit Big Data workforce to organisations across multiple industries.

The Big Data Project Reference Group (PRG), consisting primarily of IRC members, has been responsible for the direction of this cross sector project and has provided guidance, governance and made decisions based on the industry and stakeholder groups they represent. Refer to Attachment A for a list of PRG members.

Who was consulted?
PwC's Skills for Australia conducted a literature review and extensive stakeholder consultations throughout August and September 2017. Stakeholder consultation included a mix of interviews, focus groups and responses to a nationwide online survey. In total, there were 113 responses across the different consultation methods, with representation from 27 different industries and all states and territories. Refer to Attachment C for a list of stakeholders consulted.

What did we hear?
Key findings from our consultations and literature review are below. Refer to Sections 3 and 4 of the Case for Change for more information.
- Digitisation and automation of business functions are driving the increased importance of Big Data skills in the workplace, as growing volumes of data continue to be readily available for analysis;
- There is a shortage of people with Big Data related skills in Australia and a clear opportunity to develop common Big Data. These units could equip learners across different industries, occupations and employee levels with general Big Data related skills;
- There is strong support for "tiered" approach to developing and teaching Big Data related skills - that is, basic level skills that introduce Big Data concepts and data-driven decision making; and more advanced level skills around analysing, presenting and reporting data, managing data quality and using data for more advanced decision-making; and
- Our analysis of existing units of competency suggests that there are units that could be updated to remove obsolescence, remove duplication, or improve portability.

What changes are being proposed in the Big Data Case for Change?
1. Develop 1 new basic unit to introduce learners to Big Data and data-driven decision-making.
2. Develop a new skill set in 'Applied Data Analysis' which contains 5 new units. This skill set would be at a nominal Diploma level and could be taken by learners or workers from multiple sectors who want to boost their skills in data analysis.
3. Potentially replace 18 existing Units of Competency with 3 new common units, in order to remove obsolete and/or duplicated content.
4. Identify Units of Competency that already exist and could be imported into other training packages as electives to improve portability.

What does this mean for Industry Reference Committees (IRCs)?
These proposed changes, if accepted, have the potential to impact a number of training packages. Refer to Attachment B for more information.

Note that potentially materially impacted IRCs are requested to indicate approval and support for the proposed changes prior to submission of the final Case for Change to the AISC.

The ask of your IRC is to indicate approval and support for the Big Data Case for Change via this link: https://pwc.to/2yi1EHk, ideally by no later than 15 November 2017.

At a Case for Change stage, any IRC that does indicate its approval and support is doing so on the understanding that these are proposed changes only, and further consultation will be undertaken in if the Case for Change proceeds to a second phase of work. Ultimately, it will be the home IRC's decision whether to adopt any proposed changes that involve existing units in the IRCs training package. We would appreciate each IRC endeavouring to **please indicate a response by 15 November 2017**.

Approve and support the Big Data Case for Change

For queries contact info@skillsforaustralia.com