



Meat Inspection Training for University Students

Sharon Fitzgerald - MINTRAC

Overview



The problem



The solution



Our project



Outcomes



Key successes



Lessons learned



To the future

The Problem



- Critical shortage of meat inspectors in Victoria
- High cost of training for employers
- Ageing population of the meat inspection workforce
- Demand for innovative skills and critical thinking

What is a meat inspector?



- Perception:
 - Messy
 - Repetitive
 - Not many career prospects
 - Unpopular
- Reality:
 - Yes, messy
 - Must be qualified
 - Interesting (esp. if you like diseases)
 - Increasing expectations re diagnosing conditions and providing feedback
 - Problem solving
 - High pressure environment
 - Career pathways - QA

University Graduates in 1970



An era when men's fashions were flattering and 2% of the overall population had degrees. In the regions that figure was closer to 1%.

There were a lot of smart guys standing on the slaughterfloor

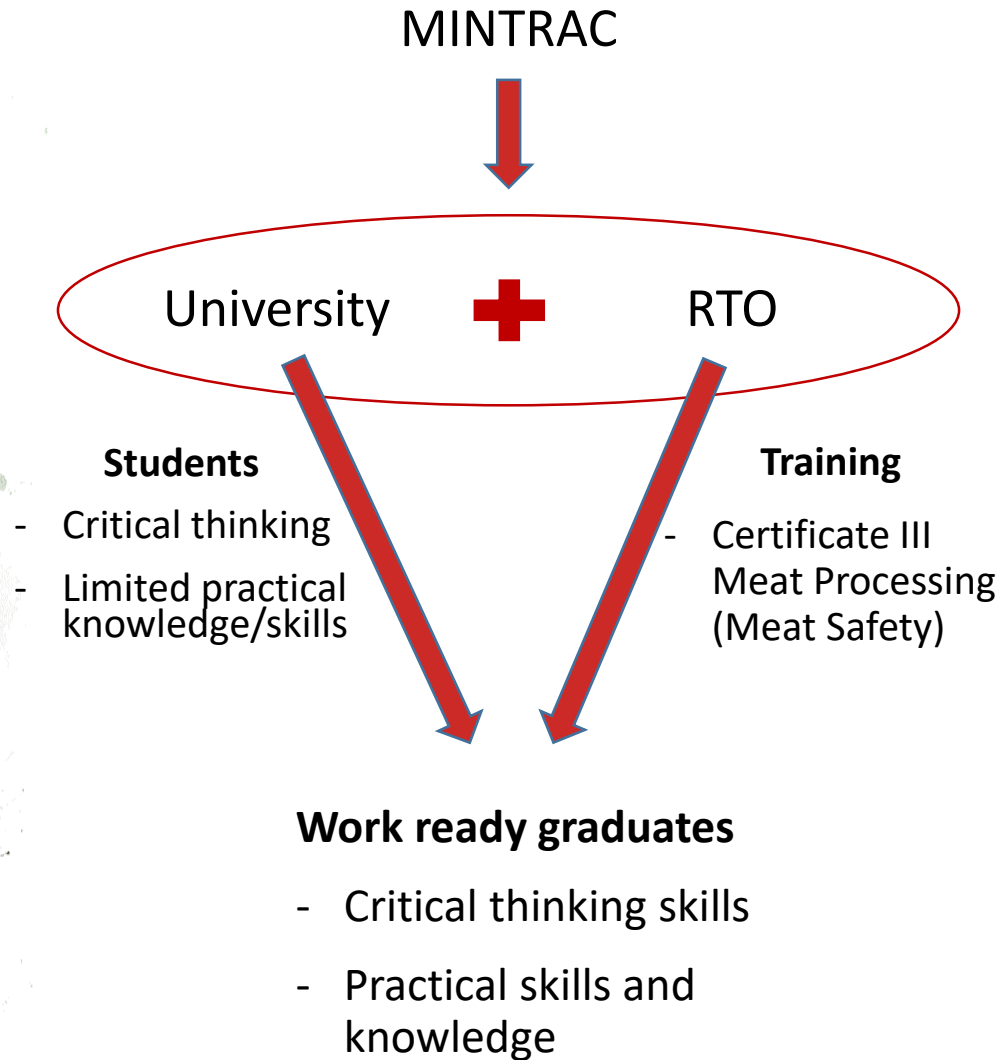
University Graduates in 2019



An era when men's fashions were even more flattering and **38% of the 25-34 population have degrees.**

In the regions that figure is closer to **20%.**

The Solution



- Meets employment shortfall
- No cost to the employer for training
 - provide environment for practical experience only
- Graduates typically 20 - 30yrs of age
- Graduates have practical skills and knowledge (VET) + technical knowledge, critical thinking and innovative skills (B. degree).

The Solution

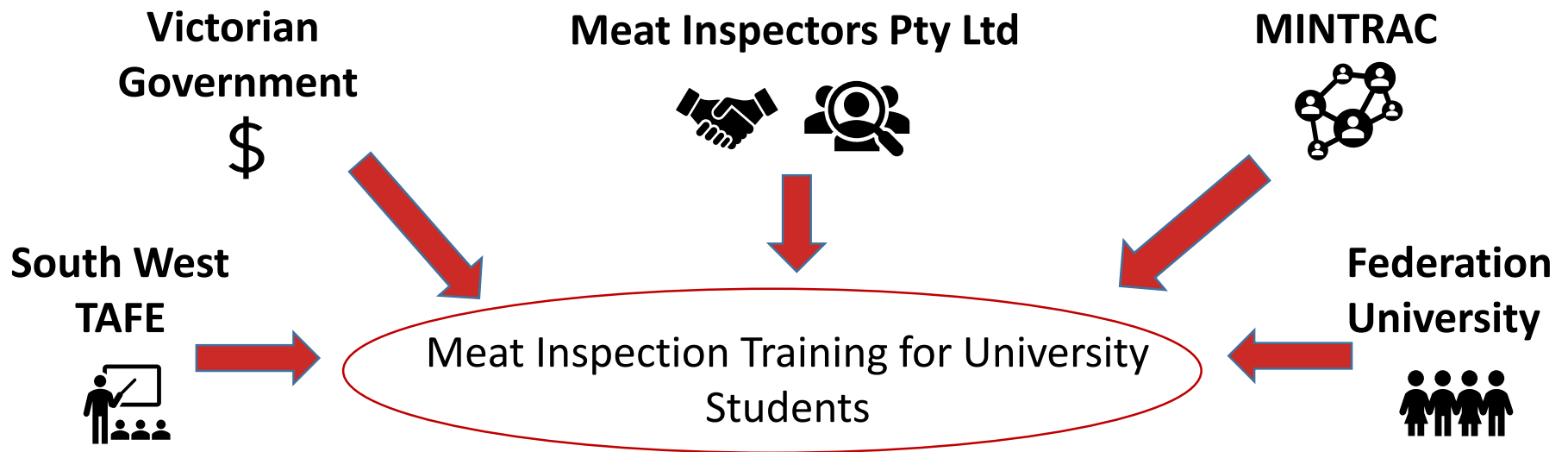
Our Project



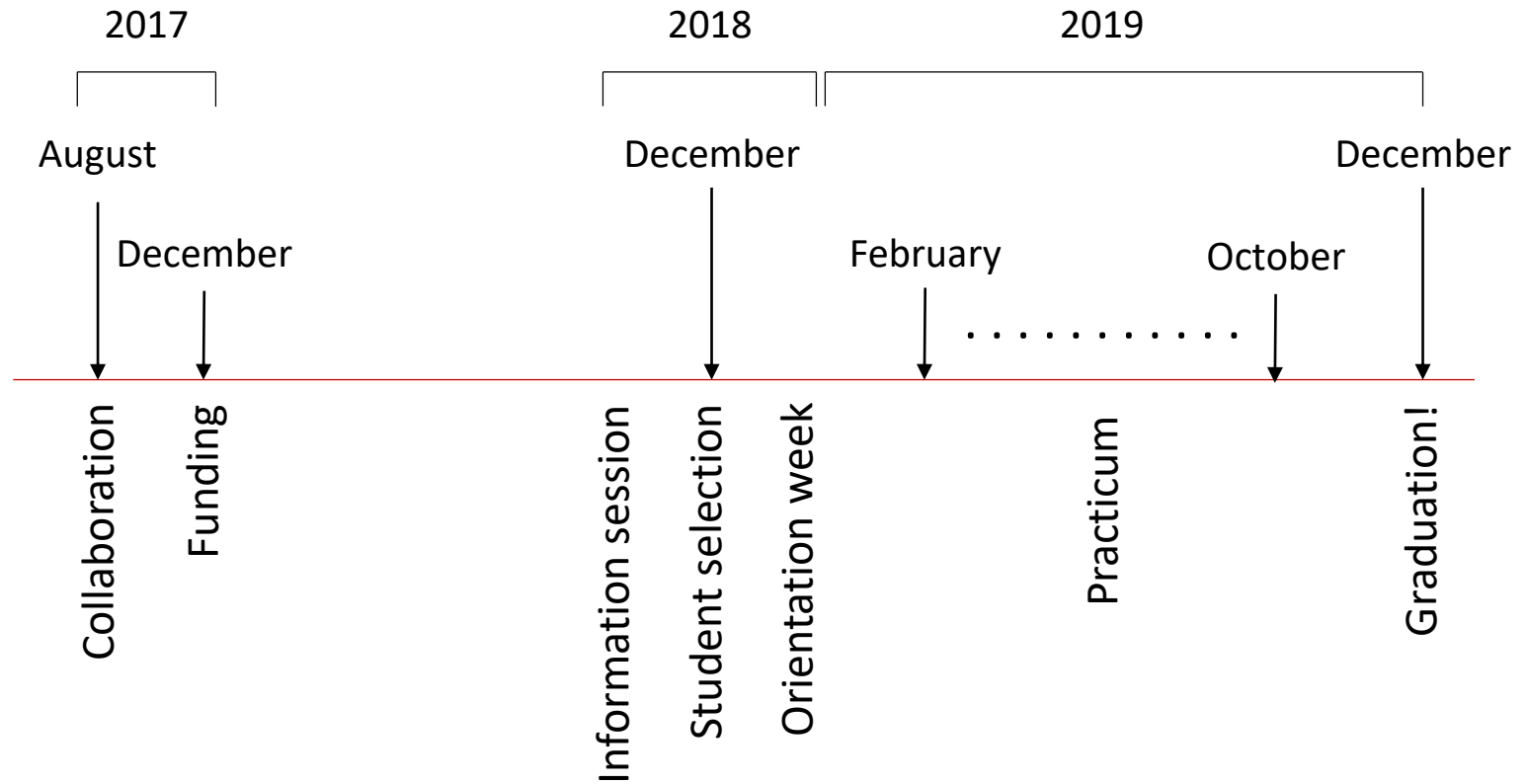
Meat Inspection Training for University Students

In partnership with Federation
University and South West TAFE

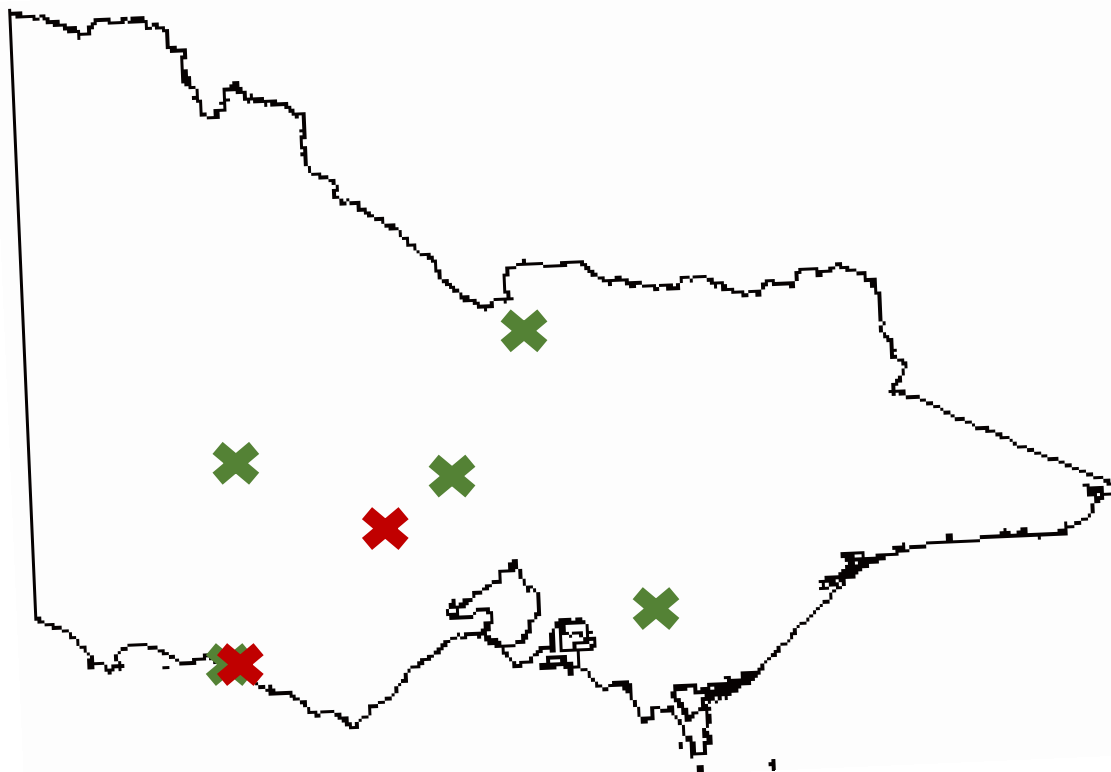
Who?



How and When?



Where?



Outcomes



Meat Inspection Training for
University Students

- Strong partnerships between project partners
- Selection of 15 students from a pool of 20 applications
- Engaging processors across the state in the recruitment of QA and inspection personnel
- Continuation planning for model progression
- Production of work ready graduates equipped with the knowledge and skills to fill positions
- Opened eyes of people who had never considered the opportunities in this industry

Outcomes

Key Successes



Meat Inspection Training for
University Students

- 2 students completed to date
- 1 student – partial completion, Statement of Attainment
- Most students have completed placement and a large portion of the theory component
- 2 job offers – one acceptance
- Interest from future students
- Networking dinner held in Ballarat
- Students have indicated interest in moving into industry
- Able to offer choice of species

Key Successes

Lessons Learned



- More females than males
- Providing a virtual experience key to student retention
- Online theory delivery
- Delivery of face-to-face training during university breaks
- Secure and assess placement sites prior to practicum periods

To the Future



- Project completion in December, 2019
- Positive feedback from stakeholders indicating desire to continue the program
- Evaluation plan
- Continuation strategy meeting with the project steering committee in late September



- Victorian government
- Victorian Department of Training and Education
- South West TAFE
- Federation University
- Meat Inspectors Pty Ltd
- Steering Committee Members
- Host employers
- Students and their families

Acknowledgements



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