Mandatory upgrade – how this may affect you

The last review of the arboriculture training package resulted in many changes to arboriculture qualifications. Arboriculture Australia Ltd is making the relevant current core units of competency mandatory for existing Registered Professional members from the 1st January 2017. From the 1st January 2014, all new Registered Professional members will need the current AHC10 qualification.

The board of Arboriculture Australia Ltd believes that this will help ensure that our Registered Professional members are providing a safe and high quality service.

What are the changes: These new units specifically target ‘critical arboriculture skills and knowledge’ required by those providing arboricultural services. The new core units for each Registered Professional membership category that must be demonstrated are listed below:

Diploma Units – required by Registered Consulting Arborists™
- AHCARB501A Assess trees
- AHCARB502A Identify, select and specify trees
- AHCARB503A Diagnose tree diseases
- AHCARB504A Develop a tree protection program
- AHCARB505A Document and audit tree work

Certificate III units – required by Registered Practising Arborists™ and Registered Qualified Arborists™
- AHCARB302A Conduct tree inspections
- AHCARB310A Perform aerial rigging

Certificate II units – required by all Registered Tree Workers™
- AHCARB207A Perform ground based rigging

What this may mean for you: If you are a Registered Professional member, you must have demonstrated competency in the units listed for your membership category, regardless of the qualification you hold. This applies to all existing members from the 1st January 2017 who presently hold a qualification that complies to the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF).

Competency will need to be validated by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and can be attained through course work, Recognised Prior Learning (RPL), credit transfer or a combination of these methods. A list of RTOs delivering arboriculture can be found on the Arboriculture Australia Ltd website www.arboriculture.org.au. For those that have the skills, upgrading is a fairly simple process, whilst those who lack the skills will gain significant benefits from the new skills.

A suggested pathway outline explaining how to achieve the new required competencies is available on the Arboriculture Australia Ltd website.

Should you have any questions regarding the mandatory upgrade please contact Arboriculture Australia Ltd at enquiries@arboriculture.org.au.