

# srinI4IZKnGTLDq7oZRH

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## Section 1: About you and your organisation

<b>1-1-ORGANISATION-TYPE</b> <b>Which of the following best describes your organisation?</b> Industry association, peak body, or industry organisation	<b>REQUIRED</b>
<b>1-2-ROLE</b> <b>Which of these best describes your role?</b> Senior management	<b>REQUIRED</b>
<b>1-3-BROADER-INDUSTRY</b> <b>Which industry(ies) are most relevant to your perspective?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Professional Dog Handling and Dog Walking Services</li><li>Animal Care and Animal Management</li><li>Companion Animal Behaviour and Training</li><li>Canine Behaviour and Welfare</li><li>Veterinary Support Services</li><li>Workplace-based Vocational Education and Training</li></ul>	<b>REQUIRED</b>
<b>1-4-ORGANISATION-NAME</b> <b>What is the name of your organisation?</b> Christchurch professional dog walkers INC	<b>REQUIRED</b>

2B-3-TRAINING-COMMON

REQUIRED

**Is work-based learning common in your industry or sector?**

Yes, many currently have employees enrolled in work-based learning

## Section 2: Industry / sector representative context

2B-1-REPRESENTED-COUNT

REQUIRED

**Approximately how many organisations, members, or stakeholders do you represent?**

CPDW Inc. currently represents and works with professional dog walkers, dog trainers, dog handlers, employers, contractors, students, and industry stakeholders within the companion animal sector. While our formal membership is continuing to grow, our advocacy and engagement extends beyond our membership through collaboration with training providers, local government, regulators, industry groups, and businesses across New Zealand. Through consultation, submissions, education, and stakeholder engagement, we estimate our work currently reaches approximately 50–100 organisations and stakeholders, with this continuing to expand.

2B-4-PROVIDER-NAMES

OPTIONAL

**Please name the training provider(s) your industry or sector engages with.**

CPDW Inc. partners with the National Dog Handling Academy (NDHA), an industry-led provider of work-based learning focused on real-world practical dog handling, and with QED. NDHA delivers competency-based workplace training and practical assessment in operational environments. The programmes are listed on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF), providing structured vocational pathways that recognise practical competence in dog handling, canine behaviour, animal welfare, public safety, risk management, and professional workplace practice.

## Section 3: Provider network preferences

3-1-PROVIDER-CHOICE

REQUIRED

**How would you prefer work-based learning providers to be organised?**

There is one main provider

3-2-GEOGRAPHIC-ARRANGEMENT

REQUIRED

**How should work-based learning provision be organised geographically?**

National coverage from provider(s) able to serve the whole country

3-4-TRAINING-ORGANISATION-PREFERENCE

REQUIRED

**Which types of provider would you prefer deliver work-based learning?**

Specialist work-based learning providers only

3-3-PROVIDER-SPECIALISATION

REQUIRED

### What level of industry specialisation should providers have?

Specialist provider(s) focused on a specific industry, occupation, or qualification area

3-5-LEARNER-GROUP-DELIVERY-IMPORTANCE

REQUIRED

### Which specific learner group(s) should providers support?

Other, please specify: CPDW Inc. believes work-based learning should be accessible to all learners who wish to pursue a career in professional dog handling. Additional support should be available where needed to help learners access, participate in, and complete training successfully. Regardless of background, all learners should be assessed against the same nationally recognised competency standards, with practical workplace performance, public safety, animal welfare, and professional capability remaining the benchmark for successful completion.

## Section 4: Understanding provider network preferences

4A-1-NETWORK-CURRENT

OPTIONAL

### What is working well about the current work-based learning system?

The current work-based learning system provides learners with valuable opportunities to develop practical skills in real workplace environments while contributing to the workforce. Where strong industry partnerships exist, learners benefit from mentoring, hands-on experience, and competency-based assessment that reflects the realities of the profession. CPDW Inc. supports industry-led providers that work closely with employers to ensure training remains relevant, responsive, and aligned with current operational practices. Recognising practical competence through workplace assessment is a key strength that should continue to be expanded across vocational education.

4A-1-NETWORK-BARRIERS

OPTIONAL

### Do you see any barriers to work-based learning in your industry or sector?

The primary barriers are the limited availability of nationally recognised, industry-specific work-based learning pathways for professional dog handlers, inconsistent competency expectations across the sector, and insufficient recognition of practical workplace experience. Many occupations within the companion animal sector require learners to demonstrate competence in dynamic, real-world environments where public safety, animal welfare, risk management, and professional decision-making are essential. Greater collaboration between industry, employers, recognised work-based learning providers, and government would strengthen vocational pathways and improve workforce capability. Industry-led competency standards, workplace assessment, and recognition of prior learning should remain central to future work-based learning provision.

**Why are the selected provider network features important?**

CPDW Inc. supports a multi-provider model where specialist, industry-led organisations can deliver work-based learning alongside the wider vocational education system. For occupations such as professional dog handling, practical competence can only be demonstrated through structured workplace learning in real operational environments. While classroom learning has an important role in supporting theoretical knowledge, it should complement—not replace—practical workplace training and competency-based assessment. Employers and learners benefit from providers with current industry expertise that can respond quickly to workforce needs while maintaining nationally recognised standards and qualifications.

**What else would need to change for training provision to meet needs?**

Government funding should prioritise recognised, industry-led work-based learning providers that deliver nationally recognised qualifications and competency-based workplace assessment. Funding should support employers to mentor trainees and expand access to practical, real-world learning. Professional dog handling requires graduates to assess each dog as an individual and apply behaviour management and training strategies that are evidence-informed, ethical, appropriate to the individual dog and situation, and supported by demonstrated practical competence. Training provision should prepare learners to work safely and effectively with a wide range of dogs, rather than relying on a single, prescriptive methodology. Greater investment in practical workplace learning will strengthen public safety, animal welfare, and professional standards across the sector.

**Anything else about work-based learning or the future network?**

CPDW Inc. encourages the Government to continue investing in recognised, industry-led work-based learning providers that deliver nationally recognised qualifications through real-world workplace training and competency-based assessment. Professional dog handling is a skilled occupation that requires practical judgement, technical competence, sound risk management, and the ability to work safely with a wide range of dogs, owners, and environments. These competencies can only be fully demonstrated through supervised workplace experience.

Future vocational education should continue to support learner and employer choice through multiple recognised providers while maintaining consistent national quality assurance. Government funding should support employers, trainees, and industry-led providers so vocational education remains accessible, responsive, and aligned with workforce needs. CPDW Inc. also supports greater recognition of prior learning and workplace experience to strengthen career pathways and professional standards across the companion animal sector.

## Section 5: Skills and training needs

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**5-2-SKILLS-GAP-AREAS**

OPTIONAL

**What skills gaps or shortages are being faced, if any?**

The professional dog handling sector requires more graduates with demonstrable practical competence in dog handling, canine behaviour, risk management, animal welfare, public safety, and effective client communication. There is also a shortage of structured workplace training opportunities and nationally recognised competency pathways specific to the profession. Employers need graduates who can safely and confidently handle dogs in real-world environments, make sound professional decisions, understand relevant legislation, and adapt their approach to the individual dog rather than relying on a single training methodology. Greater investment in industry-led, work-based learning, employer partnerships, and practical competency assessment will help address these workforce shortages while improving professional standards across the sector.

**5-4-FUTURE-SKILLS-AREAS**

OPTIONAL

**What new or different skills will be needed in the future, if any?**

The companion animal sector will increasingly require professionals with advanced practical competence in canine behaviour, behavioural assessment, risk management, animal welfare, public safety, legislation, emergency response, and professional decision-making. Future work-based learning should also strengthen skills in client communication, conflict resolution, report writing, digital record keeping, business management, and evidence-informed practice. As the profession continues to develop, there will be an increasing need for nationally recognised, competency-based qualifications that assess learners in real operational environments, ensuring graduates can safely manage a wide range of dogs, owners, and workplace situations.

## Thank you

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**END-1-FOLLOW-UP-CONTACT**

OPTIONAL

**Would you be willing for us to contact you for follow-up questions?**

Yes

**END-2-CONTACT-DETAILS**

OPTIONAL

**Please provide your name, email address, and/or phone number.**

Email: info@cpdw.com Name: Brittany Johnson - Chair/President Phone: 0223652606