The Shearing Contractors' Association of Australia

Animal Welfare Workshops

Pilot workshops (funded by AWI, SCAA & the South Australian Government) have now been conducted across the country with over 1,000 participants taking part, including covering shearers, shed staff, contractors, growers and wool brokers. The feedback has been very positive from all sectors.

Via the industry funding now secured, an additional 60 workshops are being planned from now through to the end of June 2026. These will be free for participants, who will receive a 'Certificate of Attendance' after completion.

Topics covered are:

- Quality Assurance Schemes, their requirements and the impact of non-compliance
- Australian sheep handling and animal welfare standards relating to your role
- Identification of risks for animals and staff
- Appropriate equipment selection
- Calm sheep handling techniques for shearers and shed staff
- Obligations and reporting procedures
- Managing injured animals, including procedures, suturing techniques and treatment
- Techniques for dealing with non-compliant staff

In terms of workshop rollout, we welcome help and input from all shearing contractors, and we provide the following as a guide to how we propose to run these:

1. Ideal number of participants per workshop is 20 to 30 (max). This allows for better engagement and the opportunity for all to ask questions.

2. The best venue is a shearing shed with sheep available for demonstration purposes. We request that studs not be chosen as the venue, as this may lead to a perceived bias and detract from the workshop agenda. The Workshop Coordinators (listed below) can also assist with finding a suitable venue.

3. Promotion of the workshop is done collaboratively with AWI and SCAA Training support. It is not intended that these be seen as exclusively for one contractor's or woolgrower's staff, but rather open to all interested.

4. Based on the forecasted number of participants, the Workshop Coordinators will allocate either one or two trainers for the workshop. This cost and ancillaries will be covered by the program.

5. Timing for the workshops can be either at the end of the last shearing run (option to finish the run early), on the weekend or during the evening. We recommend light refreshments be made available, the cost of which can be charged back to the program if deemed appropriate. The provision of alcohol is not recommended.

The Workshop Coordinators' names, contact details and states covered are below.

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