

# Horticultural Therapy/Therapeutic Horticulture

## Training and Employment Pathways

In Australia there are a wide range of organisations and industries that employ individuals to design, co-ordinate and work in programs that utilise aspects of Horticultural Therapy/Therapeutic Horticulture (HT/TH):

- Disability Services
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Aged Care Services
- Neighbourhood/Community Houses
- Prisons/Correctional Facilities
- Employment and Training Programs
- Mental Health Services
- Local Councils

The roles individuals may be engaged in are varied and encompass many job titles:

- Community Garden Co-ordinator
- Garden Program Facilitator
- Landscape Consultant and Designer
- Horticultural Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Activities Officer
- Community Leisure Officer
- Disability Officer
- Diversional Therapy Assistant
- Leisure Officer
- Recreation Activities Officer
- Recreational Therapist
- Diversional Therapist
- Community Development Worker
- Horticultural Trainer
- Horticulturalist
- Physiotherapist
- Allied Health Worker

### Accredited Training Pathways

Whilst there are HT/TH qualifications offered in the UK and the USA there are currently no nationally recognised qualifications offered in Australia.

However, Skills Impact (the NFP Industry Reference Council that works across Australia to benchmark accredited learning and skills for the Agriculture, Horticulture, Landscaping, Conservation and Permaculture industries) has adopted a goal for 2020-21 to “develop qualifications and units of competency to support the emerging industry of therapeutic horticulture”. Whilst the process of drafting, consultation, amending and finally approval can be drawn out it does mean the need for accredited qualifications in Therapeutic Horticulture in Australia has been recognised and will be introduced in future years.

Meantime given the diversity of roles and settings detailed above the current accredited training pathways that can be taken in Australia are equally diverse. Below is a list of qualifications that may be pathways to roles encompassing HT/TH. To find out more about specific courses you can visit the website of Victorian Skills Gateway at [www.skills.vic.gov.au](http://www.skills.vic.gov.au)

Industry Sector	Courses
Horticulture/Landscaping	Cert II in Horticulture AHC20416 Cert III in Horticulture AHC30716 Cert IV in Horticulture AHC40416 Diploma of Horticulture AHC50416 Cert II in Landscaping AHC21616 Cert III in Landscape Construction AHC30916 Cert IV in Landscape AHC42016 Diploma of Landscape Design AHC50616
Diversional/ Recreation Therapy	Cert III in Leisure & Health CHC33315 Cert IV in Leisure & Health CHC43415 ( <i>endorsed by Diversional Therapy Australia</i> ) Diploma of Leisure & Health CHC53415
Occupational Therapy	Cert III in Allied Health Assistance HLT33015 Cert IV in Allied Health Assistance (Occupational Therapy) HLT43015
Community Services/Community Development	Cert III in Community Services CHC32015 Cert IV in Community Services CHC42115 Diploma of Community Services CHC52015 Cert III in Individual Support CHC33015 Cert IV in Co-ordination of Volunteer Programs CHC44015 Diploma of Community Development CHC52115
Disability Services	Cert III in Disability CHC30408 Cert IV in Disability CHC43115
Nursing	HLT51612 Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled – Division 2 Nursing)

Undertaking CERES accredited 3 unit Horticulture Taster course can also be a way of testing out whether accredited training is for you. Details for this course can be found on our website.

CERES is also offering in 2020 an accredited Permaculture Demonstrator Skillset from the Cert III Permaculture. This Skillset aimed at those wanting to gain employment as a Permaculture Demonstrator/Trainer/Facilitator in non-accredited or Certificate I level school, labour market or community programs.

In 2020 the Victorian Government is offering 'FREE' Certificates in TAFEs for eligible students in a range of priority (skills shortage) industries that might be an appropriate pathway depending on your individual goals and current skillsets. Please note that these courses whilst free of tuition fees will still incur amenities and materials fees:

- Cert IV in Ageing Support
- Cert III & IV in Allied Health Assistance
- Cert III & IV in Community Services
- Cert IV in Disability
- Cert III & IV in Education Support
- Cert III in Horticulture

- Cert III in Individual Support
- Cert IV in Mental Health
- Diploma of Nursing
- Cert IV in Youth Work.

For further details on these free courses, including eligibility, visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe>

### Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteering can also be a valuable way to build some hands-on experience and knowledge as well as gain useful contacts and potential future job referees.

CERES, like many other organisations, has a range of horticulture volunteering opportunities advertised on it's website: <https://ceres.org.au/volunteer/>

Local Councils usually have details of Community Gardens within the municipality on their websites, and sometimes associated volunteering opportunities, so have a look at your own LGA website.

Many organisations will also advertise beyond their own website so it's worth looking at opportunities listed with Volunteering Victoria on <http://volunteeringvictoria.org.au/go-volunteer/> or Seek on <http://volunteer.com.au>