



**Australian Government**

# **MSL975043 Prepare animal and plant material for display**

**Release: 1**

# MSL975043 Prepare animal and plant material for display

## Modification History

| Release   | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Release 1 | <p>This version was released in <i>MSL Laboratory Operations Training Package Release 2.0</i>.</p> <p>Supersedes and equivalent to MSL975015 Prepare animal and plant material for display. Range of conditions removed. Assessment requirements amended.</p> |

## Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge to perform a range of techniques to collect and preserve animals and plant material for both public and scientific research display. Personnel are required to assist clients to clarify their display requirements, select the most appropriate collection and preservation procedures and display configuration and then assemble and conserve the display items. The unit does not cover techniques and procedures for handling vertebrates that are subject to national and state/territory animal care and ethics regulations.

This unit applies to technical assistants and technical officers in research and teaching institutions, museums, herbariums, commercial taxidermy, forestry, zoos and fauna park industry sectors. This unit of competency is relevant to technicians who may work individually or as part of a team. The workplace will need to equip its personnel with relevant animal handling skills should they be required.

No licensing or certification requirements exist at the time of publication. However, regulations and/or external accreditation requirements for laboratory operations exist, so local requirements should be checked. Relevant legislation, industry standards and codes of practice within Australia must also be applied.

## Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

## Competency Field

Testing

## Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

|   |                                                                    |     |                                                                                                                                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <b>Confirm the requirements of the display and plan the work</b>   | 1.1 | Clarify the purpose and design of the display in consultation with other staff                                                                       |
|   |                                                                    | 1.2 | Determine suitable methods of collection, preservation and display in order to meet the display requirements                                         |
| 2 | <b>Work safely according to the legal and regulatory framework</b> | 2.1 | Ensure work practices and personal actions conform to all relevant legislation, regulations, codes and guidelines                                    |
|   |                                                                    | 2.2 | Identify hazards and workplace safety procedures associated with the specimens, samples, collection and preservation methods, reagents and equipment |
|   |                                                                    | 2.3 | Select, fit and use personal protective equipment (PPE)                                                                                              |
|   |                                                                    | 2.4 | Address hazards and incidents as they arise                                                                                                          |
|   |                                                                    | 2.5 | Ensure the safe disposal of biohazardous materials and other waste                                                                                   |
| 3 | <b>Collect plants and animal material</b>                          | 3.1 | Assemble equipment required for collection and preservation                                                                                          |
|   |                                                                    | 3.2 | Collect specimens to meet display requirements                                                                                                       |
|   |                                                                    | 3.3 | Check identification of specimens and assess their suitability for the display                                                                       |
|   |                                                                    | 3.4 | Label specimens and accurately record data to ensure traceability of specimen from the source through to the final display                           |
|   |                                                                    | 3.5 | Store specimens during transportation to ensure it retains the required characteristics                                                              |
| 4 | <b>Preserve plant and animal material</b>                          | 4.1 | Confirm the identification of specimens and suitability for the purpose                                                                              |
|   |                                                                    | 4.2 | Examine the specimens and record data                                                                                                                |

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

4.3 Take samples from the specimens and prepare them for preservation

4.4 Preserve the specimens using workplace procedures

5 **Display plant and animal material**

5.1 Ensure the specimen is conserved to minimise deterioration

5.2 Place the preserved specimen in the display to meet the display plan and security requirements

## Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential to performance.

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

## Unit Mapping Information

Equivalent to MSL975015 Prepare animal and plant material for display, Release 1.

## Links

Training Package Companion Volumes -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5c63a03b-4a6b-4ae5-9560-1e3c5f462baa>

# Assessment Requirements for MSL975043 Prepare animal and plant material for display

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## Performance Evidence

There must be evidence the candidate has completed the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit, and:

- safely collected, correctly prepared and appropriately preserved 3 different animal specimens and 3 different plant specimens for display.

## Knowledge Evidence

There must be evidence the candidate has knowledge of:

- classification/taxonomy/flora and fauna recognition and identification methods
- legislative limitations on collection of flora and fauna
- specimen preparation methods relevant to job role
- requirements of a display plan:
  - purpose
  - length of time
  - display type
  - exclusion of pests
  - specific features of the specimen to be demonstrated
  - display environment that is sympathetic to the conservation of the specimen
  - security of valuable, vulnerable or irreplaceable specimens
  - user-friendliness and accessibility
- collection methods:
  - a range of methods for collecting live specimens including capture and euthanasia techniques
  - accessing specimens from existing collections in other institutions
- specimen suitability including level of preservation, inclusion of identifying features

- identification strategies:
  - use of field guides, keys and taxonomic charts
  - collaboration with experts
- identification data to be recorded at time of collection:
  - identification number and collection/catalogue details
  - collection information including collector, location, time, date, environment and habitat
  - reference photographs of the environment in the field and the specimen
  - identifying characteristics of specimens:
    - standard measurements including mass, length and size
    - morphological characteristics
    - sex
- preparation and preservation techniques for plant and animal specimens:
  - dissection
  - soft body and skeletal specimens
  - chemical and physical treatments
- workplace processes and procedures for creation of displays relevant to job role
- awareness of environmental sustainability issues as they relate to the work task
- legal, ethical and work health and safety (WHS) requirements specific to the work task including traceability, confidentiality and security requirements of all client information, and laboratory data and records.

## Assessment Conditions

Skills must have been demonstrated in the workplace or in a simulated environment that reflects workplace conditions and contingencies. The following conditions must be met for this unit:

- use of suitable facilities, equipment and resources, including:
  - a standard laboratory equipped with equipment and reagents
  - workplace procedures for the collection, storage, preservation, mounting and documentation of specimens and preparation of displays.

Assessors must satisfy the NVR/AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

## Links

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<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5c63a03b-4a6b-4ae5-9560-1e3c5f462baa>