AIH RH CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) Guidelines – February Revised 2026

Guiding document section 5 of the AIH Strategic Plan 2024

5. Promote the AIH Registered Horticulturist Program

Goal: Elevate the Status and Accessibility of the Registered Horticulturist Program

Objectives:

- *Promote: The Completed the Self-Managed online RH Program.*
- *Revise CPD Requirements: Re-evaluate and update CPD points to ensure they are attainable and relevant.*
- *Promote the Program: Increase awareness and enrolment in the Registered Horticulturist Program through targeted campaigns.*
- *Offer CPD Opportunities: Provide a variety of CPD opportunities, including online courses, workshops, and field training.*

Metrics:

- *Increase the number of registered horticulturists by 200%.*
- *Ensure 50% of qualified members meet or exceed CPD requirements.*
- *Increase by 100% AIH calendar of events with CPD points gained on attendance.*

1. Purpose

The purpose of the AIH Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program is to ensure that horticultural professionals maintain and enhance their knowledge, skills, and professional standards throughout their careers.

The 5 Pillars of AIH CPD supports:

- **Lifelong Learning**
- **Knowledge Sharing, Creation and Research**
- **Industry Engagement**
- **Professional Practice Development**
- **Professional Currency**

Registered Horticulturists - CPD is mandatory and forms part of the requirements to maintain registration.

2. Scope

All AIH members, industry practitioners, and members of the public may attend AIH CPD activities. CPD recording and compliance requirements apply to all Registered Horticulturists.

3. Status Registered Horticulturist (RH) Program

- AIH is the sole authority for awarding and administering the Registered Horticulturist (RH) designation.
- The RH designation recognises horticulturists who demonstrate and maintain high standards of competence and professional practice.
- Entry requirements are based on qualifications, experience, and criteria approved by the AIH Council.

4. Benefits of Registration

Becoming a Registered Horticulturist provides:

- Recognition as a leading professional in horticulture
- Improved employment and business opportunities
- Preferred status with government and industry clients
- Access to up-to-date technical knowledge
- Support through the AIH professional network
- Access to AIH specific professional insurance premiums (where applicable)
- National and international professional recognition

5. Why CPD is Required

The horticulture industry is affected by:

- Climate change
- Emerging pests and diseases
- Technological advancement
- Regulatory change
- Increased public and environmental expectations

CPD ensures horticulturists:

- Remain technically current
- Practise safely and ethically
- Meet regulatory and contractual obligations
- Protect the environment and public welfare

6. Principles of CPD

AIH adopts the following CPD principles:

- CPD is a career-long commitment to professional learning.
- CPD must be relevant to horticultural practice and professional conduct.
- CPD should emphasise technical and professional expertise.
- CPD records must be accurate, honest, and supported by evidence.
- CPD will be audited by AIH.

7. Period of Registration

- Registration as a Registered Horticulturist is granted for **two years**.
- Renewal requires submission of a CPD report that meets the conditions of registration.

8. CPD Records and Management

Recording CPD provides:

- Evidence of competence
- Transparency for employers and clients
- Assurance to regulators and insurers
- Professional accountability

RH member Management

- Members are responsible for maintaining records of their CPD activities.
- For all CPD activities members must self-record activities and retain documentary evidence for audit purposes.
- AIH will review an RH's CPD records as received.
- AIH reserves the right to determine whether an activity qualifies for CPD.

9. CPD Knowledge and Skills Bases

CPD activities must fall within one or more of the following knowledge and skills bases:

Recommended

- Horticultural Technical & Scientific Knowledge such as plant, soil, water, pests, nutrition, ecology, climate, turf, arboriculture, production systems
- Professional Practice & Technical Skills such as industry sector practices, diagnostics, design, construction, maintenance, irrigation, production, consultancy

Optional

- Ethics, Safety & Social Responsibility such as to workplace health and safety, environmental management, biosecurity, planning law, sustainability, public safety
- Business, Management & Technology such as but not limited to marketing, finance, contracts, human resources, digital tools, emerging technologies

10. CPD Points to maintain Registration

Registered Horticulturists must:

- Complete **25 CPD points over each two-year registration period**.
- Maintain documentary evidence for all claimed CPD.
- CPD points may be carried forward for a period of **two years** from the date of the event

11. Maintaining status

AIH reserves the right to remove a Registered Horticulturist from the Register for:

- Non-payment of fees
- Where the member's records indicate a failure to meet CPD requirements or failure to provide of CPD records within a stipulated timeframe as and when requested
  - Insufficient spread of activities to cover the 5 pillars
- Breach of the AIH Code of Ethics

All actions will be taken in accordance with:

- the AIH Rules of Incorporation, Standard Operating Procedures and AIH Code of Ethics
- the ACT Incorporated Associations Act 1991 (as amended)
- AIH Ethics Panel Advice

Appendix A - CPD 5 Pillars Activity Point Allocation Table

AIH 5 Pillars	Activity Type	Points	Maximum per Activity
Lifelong Learning			
Informal	Conference attendance	1 point per hour	12 points
	Workshop and seminar-based attendance	1 point per hour	12 points
Formal	Accredited and industry recognised full horticultural or related courses and competencies leading to a qualification	25 points per qualification	25 points
	Short industry sector course	3 points per course	12 points
Knowledge Sharing, Creation and Research	Presenting at CPD events	3 points per hour	12points
	Publishing professional or technical material	3 points per item	18 points
	Teaching – preparation, delivery and assessment of horticultural and related industry skills and knowledge	6 points per F/T 3 points per P/T	12 points 6 points
	Mentoring other AIH member professional development	2 points per mentored AIH member	12 points
	Supervised research	2 points per hour	20 points per year
Industry Engagement	Field days and technical site visits	1 point per hour	16 points
	Specialised guided tour	1 point per hour	16 points
	Group walk or site visit – non-specialised	1 point per event	12points
	Plant life, plant health and technical product demonstrations	1 point per hour	12 points
	AIH AGM, General meetings, Awards dinner	1 point per meeting	12points
	Membership of industry relevant associations	1 point per membership	6 points
	AIH Council, sub-committee and industry representation	2 points per role	12 points
Professional Practice Development	Special consultancies	3 points per consultancy	12 points
	Development and implementation of major projects	3 points per project	12 points

Professional Currency	Subscriptions to relevant professional journals and magazines	1 point per subscription	3 points
	Contribution of articles to magazines, e-news, social media	1 point per article	4 points