INTRODUCTION

The Australasian rail industry lacks a consistently accepted standard of minimal training necessary to perform rail incident investigations. Current Australasian courses do not offer the breadth of development required for a comprehensive career pathway in incident investigation (Biggs, Banks & Dovan, 2012; Short, Kains & Harris, 2010).

OBJECTIVE

The Australian CRC for Rail Innovation commissioned a Training Needs Analysis to identify common training needs and to support the development of a national competency framework for rail incident investigations.

METHOD

A four-step Training Needs Analysis was conducted comprising reviewing: literature; job descriptions; current and proposed training; and consulting with 52 industry experts from 19 Australasian organisations.

RESULTS

The role of rail incident investigator involves the application of a diverse skill set that uniquely combines engineering with safety science and requires knowledge ranging from understanding interpersonal communication strategies to the complex formulae of derailment cause analysis. Ten competencies were identified for rail incident investigator training.

DISCUSSION

The Certificate IV training package in rail incident investigation was developed to align with the Australian Qualification Framework. It includes core units covering critical knowledge and skill requirements from across the 10 competencies. The electives provide flexibility to tailor the qualification to meet individual needs within an industry approved framework.

CONCLUSION

The training package requires further development into a curriculum with input from a registered training organisation. The course should be evaluated to ensure that graduates are obtaining standardised industry knowledge and skills appropriate for their role as rail incident investigator.