

A woman with dark hair and glasses is focused on her work, operating a green industrial sewing machine. She is wearing a red top. The machine is a heavy-duty model with various dials and a large needle. A bright, adjustable lamp is positioned above the machine to provide clear lighting. The background shows a workshop environment with a white brick wall and some fabric pieces. A large blue curved graphic element is in the top right corner, and a yellow curved graphic element is in the bottom left corner.

The Social Studio

Client Manufacturing Guide



Ethical Clothing Australia
accredited since 2009



The Social Studio is an established apparel manufacturer specialising in ethical and sustainable practices.

As a not-for-profit social enterprise, our in-house production studio supports refugees and new migrants in more ways than one.

In our ethical production studio, there's transparency printed into every label. Everything we produce, from client orders to our own sustainable label, is manufactured to Ethical Clothing Australia standards and to minimise environmental impact. We are also active in the social procurement space and are registered with Social Traders.

And, because our ecosystem is designed to empower our community, we're proud to say that 80% of our staff also come from refugee and new migrant backgrounds, bringing their unique skills and cultures to the cutting table.



Our Services

Our ethical production studio creates high-quality apparel and homewares for the local fashion industry, made in our Collingwood studio.

We work closely with our clients to educate and encourage more sustainable choices and practices.

We offer many production services including:

- Design consultation and development
- Pattern making and pattern alterations
- Pattern grading
- Sampling
- Textile design and print production
- CMT (Cut Make and Trim) production

Our Process

We take a hands-on and flexible approach to working with our clients. Here's an overview of what it looks like to work together:

1. Get in touch

Once you've read through this guide, you can submit an enquiry via our online form [here](#). You can include references as attachments. The more information you can provide, the better!

2. Consultation process

Should your project be suited to our services we will arrange a free 30-minute consultation to further discuss your project in more detail. At this stage you will need to supply design images and a specification sheet to help communicate the construction of your items and assist us in developing an estimate for production costs. If you don't have your own specification sheet we can provide one for you.

Any further consultations will incur a fee as listed in our services price list below. If you are starting a new label and are new to production please reach out to us about consultation packages and possible workshops/events that give you an introduction to the production process.

3. Pattern development

Now that your project is in full swing we will need you to supply patterns for your garments. It's up to you whether you provide a marker or card patterns.

We can also offer in house pattern making services and can make alterations to patterns through the sampling stage.

4. Sampling stage

We can only offer a guide price as an estimate of the production cost before we start a pre-production sample. Once we have your patterns we will create a pre-production sample that helps inform our production quote with approximate timelines for your approval. This will be produced in your chosen sample size and should be made using the final fabrics and trims.

5. Approval

We await your approval with the sampling process and undertake any changes you require. Once approved, the sample will be used as an exact reference during production. It is the client's responsibility to ensure they are satisfied with the sample and that adjustments are clearly documented before going into bulk production.

6. Pattern Grading

Should you require grading services we can assist with this process. You can choose to have your patterns graded on card or stored as digital files and printed onto markers for cutting. Both numerical (6, 8, 10, 12, 14) and alphanumeric (XS, S, M, L) sizing are available. Some grading may be outsourced to a local grader and this work is covered by our ECA accreditation.

7. Trims and notions

You will need to provide all notions and trims including zips, fusing, buttons, care labels, design labels and thread. If you wish to use thread to match from our stock then we can offer a rate based on your order.

The client is responsible for ensuring legal requirements regarding labelling are met. On most apparel you must provide fabric composition, country of origin and care instructions as outlined by [Australian Consumer Law](#).

8. Production & delivery

Once your sample is approved we will confirm your full production costs in a quote. Once you accept the quote an invoice will be issued. **A 50% deposit must be paid to schedule your order and agreed completion dates, as stated in our payment terms on the invoice.**

Please ensure samples are returned to us for reference before production commences.

Time frames can vary depending on current project capacity, we are happy to keep you updated on our schedule openings throughout the development process.

Should your production be delayed due to fabric/ trims shipping delays, or grading delays please keep us informed so we can update our schedule.

You can either pick up your order in person or we can help you organise a courier.

Before goods can be released, you must provide a receipt of the 50% balance payment of your order.



9. Post-Production

Once production is complete we require you to collect your patterns and any remaining fabrics/materials within 60 days. Due to limited storage space, if collection does not occur they will be disposed of.

We send our textile waste to Upparel, let us know if you would like us to do the same for you for a small fee!



Pricing Guide

We use a transparent pricing system, and each style/product estimate will be broken down in a costing sheet for each client. This will give you a full breakdown of how your costs are calculated.

On the following pages you will find our estimated price list. This is a guide only and each manufacturing project varies in price depending on finishings and construction.

Our core collection offers affordable fixed manufacturing prices (not inclusive of fabrics and accessories) for styles that have been thoughtfully designed for a wide market. We are also able to offer a generous sliding scale for larger quantities.

All patterns for the core collection are graded ready to go – you just need to supply the fabrics and accessories! Please reach out to us for advice on fabric suitability and meterage required based on fabric width. We are always happy to recommend local fabric and label suppliers for your project. Any required print/ embroidery or additional sizing can be additionally quoted.

If you are interested in our core collection, please contact manufacturing@thesocialstudio.org for more information.

Please note the prices quoted are exclusive of GST.

Core Collection – fixed prices, not including GST

ACCESSORIES + HOMEWARES	50-99 UNITS	100-499 UNITS	500+ UNITS
Tote Bag	\$12.00	\$11.15	\$10.30
Shopper Bag	\$24.50	\$22.70	\$21.20
Cushion Cover	\$22.00	\$20.45	\$19.00
Tea Towel	\$8.50	\$7.90	\$7.35
Napkin	\$7.00	\$6.50	\$6.05
APPAREL	30-99 UNITS	100-499 UNITS	500+ UNITS
Crewneck T-shirt	\$22.00	\$20.90	\$19.85
Crewneck Sweater	\$32.00	\$30.40	\$28.90
Hooded Sweater	\$41.50	\$39.40	\$37.45

* Core Collection Tote Bag is priced inclusive of calico – if you wish to supply an alternative fabric we can give you a 10% discount on this price.

Apparel Price Guide – not including GST

STYLE	30-99 UNITS
Shirts	\$55.00 – 65.00
Pants	\$45.00 – 55.00
Shorts	\$40.00 – 53.00
Dresses	\$50.00 – 65.00
Skirts	\$35.00 – 45.00

Talk to us about other garment and product ideas, including homewares, basic undergarments, activewear and corporate gifting.

Services

Consultations

We offer a free initial face-to-face consultation for you to talk us through your product requirements and samples – if you have them.

Subsequent consultations are \$80 + GST per hour, minimum half hour consult.

We are happy to consult for toile or sample fittings, product design and development, print design and general branding.

Patternmaking + pattern alterations

\$80 + GST per hour.

Sampling

Sampling fees are double the item cost listed in Manufacturing Guide. Admin fees are calculated at 20% of all sampling costs.

Outsourced grading

We are happy to coordinate grading for you with an ECA-accredited grader. Prices start from \$32 per size for under 6 pattern pieces.

Please note -

Clients must provide an extra 5% of the total fabrics and materials required to complete their projects and must also include a small excess of design, care labels and accessories (i.e. zips, buttons etc.)

Minimum order quantity for apparel is 30 units per style – these can be different sizes and colours. Minimum order quantities for accessories and homewares is 50 units per style/product.

Core Collection Tote Bag is priced inclusive of calico – if you wish to supply an alternative fabric we can give you a 10% discount on this price.

Payment Terms – 50% deposit is required upfront to secure your place in our production schedule. 50% payment is required prior to collection/shipping.

The Social Studio reserves the right to refuse manufacturing jobs, this is at the discretion of management, and determined by access to appropriate facilities, TSS/client resources, and machinist skills.

Our clients

We are proud to have worked with the following clients -

KUWALI

búl

WILLIE
WESTON



CAKEBREAD



Well Made
CLOTHES

MPAVILION

FUTURE
FUTURE
FUTURE

third boi

ngali

TINTA

The
Social
Studio

Our testimonials

Here are some nice things our clients have to say about us -

“When we started producing our own clothing, it was imperative to us that the people who were making our clothing were being treated fairly, and that our clothing was being made to the highest quality standards, too. The fact that The Social Studio guarantees all of this, and also provides training for young people from new migrant and refugee communities, made them the obvious choice for us. We value this relationship and hope it continues for a long time!”

**Courtey Sanders, Founder
Well Made Clothes**

“Working with The Social Studio was a welcomed collaboration, with an aligned vision on local Australian design in naturally focused materials, alongside conscious ordering practices for a greater sustainable future. With shared values on supporting ethical and sustainable production it has been an honour working with The Social Studio by way of a capsule collection. We uphold the work they do for the community and for the greater good of the planet and it has been a pleasure to share this experience with.”

**Virginia Martin, Founder
Bul**

FAQs

What's your Minimum Order Quantity (MOQ)?

For apparel it's 30 units per style, regardless of sizes or colours. For accessories and homewares it's 50 units. Our Studio has the capacity to work with small to medium size production runs, usually from 30 to 250 units for apparel styles and 50 to 1,000 units for accessories and homeware styles/ products. But that's just an average: we are always open to discussing larger orders depending on your needs.

What services do you provide?

We can assist through the manufacturing process with patternmaking, pattern alterations, grading, sampling and production.

Do you source fabrics?

In general all fabric, trims and threads must be supplied by the client. If you need help sourcing fabrics, we can recommend some top-notch suppliers that we trust. In some instances we can fabric source for your project.

Do you offer digital print, screen print or embroidery?

Unfortunately, we don't currently offer these services... Let us know that you're looking and we'll recommend some suppliers we love.

What are your production limits?

We specialise in a variety of wovens and cut and sew jersey. We provide a limited service for activewear and underwear. At this time, we don't provide services for swimwear, bed linen, knitwear or denim wear. If you're unsure, please get in touch.

What are your payment terms?

Our terms are simple: 50% deposit before commencing an order and 50% prior to collection/ shipping.

What brands have you worked with in the past?

We're proud to have worked with some incredible established and emerging designers across apparel and homewares. A few of our favourites: Kuwaii, Búl, Well Made Clothes, Ulo, and Takeawei.

What is your lead-time for orders?

Lead times vary depending on the size and complexity of your order. Please get in touch with the Studio and we can provide you with an estimate.

My homewares/clothing label is new, do you offer design and production consultancy?

Congratulations! Yes we do! Please reach out to us for consultancy packages and to hear about up and coming events.



Contact us

About The Social Studio

We empower young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to design their own futures by providing fashion and industry-based solutions to the main barriers they face upon arriving to our community: unemployment, isolation and difficulties accessing education and training. We do this by creating jobs, providing education opportunities, encouraging community engagement and fostering social inclusion.

to The Social Studio today

For all manufacturing enquiries please email us at –

manufacturing@thesocialstudio.org

thesocialstudio.org

The Social Studio
Collingwood Yards
101/30 Perry Street, Collingwood,
Melbourne, VIC, 3066.
Ph (03) 9417 2143