



Assessment of Overseas Skills for Migration Purposes Comments by the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors

In response to the release of the excerpts from the Issues paper, the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (AIQS) would like to make the following comments for consideration by the Committee.

1. The assessment of overseas professional qualifications is not an easy task but in our profession of Quantity Surveying, it is becoming less difficult as we start to introduce regional and international competency standards.
2. However, as you no doubt know there are other issues which impact on the competency standards of foreign qualified professionals eg
 - a. the standard of the overseas education facilities and their resources,
 - b. the standard of their staff and their research commitments,
 - c. differences in local procedures and operations,
 - d. difference in ethics and professional practice standards.

To ensure that suitably qualified professionals, such as Quantity Surveyors, are eligible for skilled migration, the assessment of their qualifications should best be done by those who know and understand the national and international competency standards and have contacts with the relevant overseas institutions and professional bodies.

Even in situations where the overseas qualifications are accepted by Australian Assessing authorities (such as the AIQS through reciprocal agreements with overseas QS Institutes), we need to undertake a thorough verification of those qualifications and substantiate the claims made by the applicant.

It is therefore essential that Australia continues to assess and verify the level of skills and qualifications offered by potential migrants and the current system for doing this, from our experience, appears to be effective, efficient and cost effective for both the applicant and Australian authorities.

The AIQS therefore supports the retention of the current system of assessing skilled migration qualifications.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry L. Sanders".

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email

fax