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DEWR response to preliminary JSCM questions on notice

Q1. Could you provide us with a list of the local trades committees, by state?

Yes (See Attachment A).

Local Trades Committees (LTCs) are located in each Australian State. New South Wales has coverage for the ACT and South Australia over NT. Committees represent the Engineering, Electrical, Boiler making, Sheet metal and Blacksmithing trades.

Q2. Presumably these bodies undertake some assessment of trade skills gained overseas for persons resident in Australia.

LTCs assess claims of training and experience from eligible Australian residents who have gained skills through training or on the job experience in Australia or overseas. A successful application results in the relevant LTC conferring an Australian Recognised Trade Certificate (ARTC).

LTCs consider the evidence of training and workplace experience outlined by applicants against the Criteria and Guidelines established by the Central Trades Committees under the *Tradesmen's Rights Regulations Act 1946* (the Act). The Act is the vehicle through which an ARTC is issued. TRA provides administrative and secretariat support to the LTCs.

Q3. Is this only for trades outside the prescribed metal and electrical trades assessed by TRA domestically or do they assist in TRA's domestic work in this area also?

LTCs assess applicants in prescribed metal and electrical trades only. A full list of these trades is specified in the Act (Attachment B). Registered training organisations, including state and territory authorities and private organisations are responsible for skills assessments in other occupations.

Q4. Presumably, these individuals then have to apply for state licensing/registration, separate from this process. Could you also comment on the following excerpt from the Perth hearings (available through the Committee website). We are interested in whether there is a dual process, as suggested, where overseas skilled migrants need to go through TRA's assessment process offshore and then through an assessment process onshore through TRA (to obtain an ARTC) and/or whether this applies only to the prescribed metal and electrical trades assessed by TRA domestically. Presumably, these individuals then have to apply for state licensing/registration, separate from this process.

TRA is a skills assessing authority empowered under the Migration Regulations 1994 to assess the skills of potential migrants in all trades and some para professional occupations. The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs require a successful TRA skills assessment as a prerequisite for a visa application under the general skilled migration.

The vast majority of TRAs pre migration skills assessments are completed in a very short time. Applications from potential migrants in occupations on the migration occupation in demand list (MODL), which represent about 90% of all TRA international applications, are assessed within 10 working days.

If successful in their visa application, upon arrival in Australia, migrants may need to undertake further assessment to establish their credentials and status in the industrial community. The requirement for a second assessment once a migrant arrives in Australia is not unique to the metal and electrical trades. Further, some occupations and most trades have state enforced licensing or registration requirements that must be satisfied before a person can be employed in Australia in that occupation or trade.

Under the *Tradesmen's Rights Regulations Act 1946*, TRA undertakes trades skills assessments for eligible Australian residents in prescribed metal and electrical trades. TRA does not have a monopoly on this activity. Registered training organisations (RTOs), including state and territory authorities and private organisations, also offer trade skills assessment for Australian residents in the metal and electrical trades.

In comparison with RTOs, TRAs ARTC is a nationally recognised assessment for licensing purposes. The cost of an ARTC is significantly lower than from an RTO and domestic assessments are currently being completed by TRA within 60 working days, typically quicker than RTOs.

TRA makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that successful international stream applicants are aware that licensing requirements may apply once they arrive in Australia. Key contact details for skills recognition and licensing authorities are provided to successful pre-migration applicants with the TRA acceptance letter ([Attachment C](#)).

For the period January 2005 to March 2006, 885 applications for a TRA domestic trades skills assessment in the prescribed electrical and metal trades were received from applicants who had previously undertaken a TRA pre migration skills assessment for visa purposes. This represents 3.9% of all international applications received by TRA over that period.

The comments made by Ms Fletcher and the questions raised here by the Committee go to some of the issues the Coalition of Australian Governments (COAG) is addressing in its initiative announced 10 February 2006. COAG's emphasis is on streamlining the assessment process and facilitating skilled tradespeople into Australia and the Australian workforce as quickly as possible. Streamlining the assessment process will be dependent on states and territories achieving mutual recognition of licensing standards and strengthened competency based, outcomes focused training standards.

Stewart Thomas
Assistant Secretary
Workplace Programmes Branch
(02) 6121 6208

18 April 2006

Central Trades Committees

Central (Engineering Trades) Committee
Central (Electrical Trades) Committee
Central (Boilermaking Trades) Committee
Central (Blacksmithing Trades) Committee
Central (Sheet Metal Trades) Committee

Local Trades CommitteesVictoria

Local (Engineering Trades) Committee – VIC
Local (Electrical Trades) Committee – VIC
Local (Boilermaking Trades) Committee – VIC
Local (Blacksmithing Trades) Committee – VIC
Local (Sheet Metal Trades) Committee – VIC

New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory

Local (Engineering Trades) Committee – NSW/ACT
Local (Electrical Trades) Committee – NSW/ACT
Local (Boilermaking Trades) Committee – NSW/ACT
Local (Blacksmithing Trades) Committee – NSW/ACT
Local (Sheet Metal Trades) Committee – NSW/ACT

Queensland

Local (Engineering Trades) Committee – QLD
Local (Electrical Trades) Committee – QLD
Local (Boilermaking Trades) Committee – QLD
Local (Blacksmithing Trades) Committee – QLD
Local (Sheet Metal Trades) Committee – QLD

Tasmania

Local (Engineering Trades) Committee – TAS
Local (Electrical Trades) Committee – TAS
Local (Boilermaking Trades) Committee – TAS
Local (Blacksmithing Trades) Committee – TAS
Local (Sheet Metal Trades) Committee – TAS

Western Australia

Local (Engineering Trades) Committee – WA

Local (Electrical Trades) Committee – WA

Local (Boilermaking Trades) Committee – WA

Local (Blacksmithing Trades) Committee – WA

Local (Sheet Metal Trades) Committee – WA

South Australia / Northern Territory

Local (Engineering Trades) Committee – SA/NT

Local (Electrical Trades) Committee – SA/NT

Local (Boilermaking Trades) Committee – SA/NT

Local (Blacksmithing Trades) Committee – SA/NT

Local (Sheet Metal Trades) Committee – SA/NT

List of trades scheduled under the TRR Act

Armature winder
Automotive electrician
Blacksmith
Body maker, first class
Boilermaker
Boilermaker and structural steel tradesperson
Coppersmith
Electrical Fitter
Electrical Fitter (instruments)
Electrical mechanic
Electroplater, first class
First class machinist
First class machinist (boring)
First class machinist (drilling)
First class machinist (grinding)
First class machinist (milling)
First class welder (blacksmithing)
First class welder (engineering)
First class welder (sheetmetal)
Fitter
Fitter (diesel)
Fitter (instruments)
Fitter and first class machinist
Fitter and turner
Forger
Ground engineer (airframe)
Ground engineer (airframe and engines)
Ground engineer (electrical)
Ground engineer (engines)
Ground engineer (instruments)
Ground engineer (radio)
Locksmith
Machine setter
Mechanic (marine and other engines 200cc & above)
Motor cycle mechanic
Motor mechanic
Panel beater
Pattern maker
Refrigeration mechanic
Scientific instrument maker
Sheet metal worker, first class
Structural steel tradesperson
Telecommunications mechanic
Tradesperson heat treater
Tradesperson (radio)
Tradesperson (radio and television)
Tradesperson (television)
Turner
Welder, first class (boilermaking)

Australian Accreditation, Licensing and Registration Contacts

Are you eligible for an Australian Recognised Trade Certificate issued by Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)?

If you have been accepted in an engineering, electrical, metal fabrication or welding trade, you may also be eligible for an Australian Recognised Trade Certificate (ARTC). An ARTC is a nationally recognised trade qualification that you may apply for when you become a resident in Australia. For further information on an ARTC, please contact TRA's Office for Domestic Assessments.

Trades Recognition Australia

Tel: (03) 9954 2537 or 1300 360 992
 Fax: (03) 9954 2588
 Mail: GPO Box 9879 Melbourne VIC 3001
www.workplace.gov.au/tra

Registration and Accreditation Contacts

For further training:

New South Wales

Vocational Training Tribunal
 Tel: (02) 9266 8450
 3385
www.det.nsw.gov.au

Queensland

Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission
 Tel: (07) 3247 5477 Fax: (07) 3247 5488
www.detir.qld.gov.au

South Australia

Department of Further Education, Employment,
 Training
 Science & Technology
 4358
 Tel: (08) 8226 3398 Fax: (08) 8226 3383
www.tafe.sa.edu.au/vet_div

Australian Capital Territory

ACT Accreditation and Registration Council
 Education and Community Services
 Tel: (02) 6205 7066 Fax: (02) 6205 7045
www.dpa.act.gov.au/education/vetbranch/index.htm

Electrical Licensing contacts

For an electrical licence:

New South Wales

Home Building Licensing Unit
 Tel: (02) 98950111
www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

Queensland

Electrical Licensing Board
 Tel: 1300 362 320 Fax: 61 7 3247 9453

Victoria

VETASSESS
 Tel: (03) 9655 4801 Fax: (03) 9654
 Email vetasses@vetassess.com.au
 Internet www.vetassess.com.au

Western Australia

Overseas Qualification Unit
 Tel: (08) 9212 0111

Tasmania

Office of Vocational Education and
 Training
 Tel: (03) 6233 7708 Fax: (03) 6234
www.dvet.tas.gov.au

Northern Territory

Group Training Northern Territory
 Tel: (08) 89800614

Victoria

The Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector
 Tel: (03) 9203 9757 Free Call: 1800 815 721

Western Australia

The Electrical Licensing Board
 Tel: (08) 9422 5282
www.energy.safety.wa.gov.au

South Australia
 Business and Occupational Services
 Electrical Licensing
 Tel: (08) 8204 9644
www.ocba.sa.gov.au

Australian Capital Territory
 Department of Urban Services
 Building, Electrical and Plumbing Control
 Tel: (02) 6207 6400

Tasmania
 Electricity Standards and Safety
 Tel: (03) 6233 7831
www.wst.tas.gov.au/electricity

Northern Territory
 Electrical & Plumbing Licensing Board
 Tel: (08) 8999 7152

Plumbing, Draining and Gasfitting Registration and Licensing Contacts

For a plumbing licence:

New South Wales
 Department of Fair Trading
 Tel: (02) 9377 9300
www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

Victoria
 Plumbing Industry Commission
 Tel: (03) 9889 2211
www.pic.vic.gov.au

Queensland
 Plumbers and Drainers Examination and
 Services
 Licensing Board
 Tel: (07) 3235 4149
www.lgp.qld.gov.au

Gasfitting
 Natural Resources and Mines
 Board
www.nrm.qld.gov.au

Southern Region Office (*Brisbane and all surrounding
 areas south and west to as far north as Hervey Bay*)
 Drainers
 Tel: (07) 3238 3725

Central Region Office (*North of Hervey Bay and all
 surrounding areas west to as far north as Mackay*)
 Tel: (07) 4938 4331

Northern Region Office (*North of Mackay and areas
 west*)
 Tel: (07) 4760 7404

Western Australia
 Plumbers Licensing Board
 Tel: (08) 92820478
www.deocep.wa.gov.au

Gasfitting
 Energy Safety
 Tel: (08) 9422 5282
www.energysafety.wa.gov.au

South Australia
 Business and Occupational

 Tel: (08) 8204 9698
www.ocba.sa.gov.au

Tasmania
 Plumbers and Gasfitters Registration

 Tel: (03) 6233 4629

Northern Territory
 Northern Territory Plumbers and

 Licensing Board
 Tel: (08) 8924 4030

Gasfitting
 Work Health Office Technical Services
 Tel: (08) 89821700
www.tbc.nt.gov.au

Australian Capital Territory
 ACT Planning and Land Authority
 Tel: (02) 6207 6288
www.legislation.act.gov.au