



**Deputy Secretary**  
**Dr Subho Banerjee**

Mr Tony Simovski  
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Dear Mr Simovski

**Regulation Impact Statement – second pass final assessment**

The attached Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) relates to the closure of the Australian Recognised Trade Certificate (ARTC) Program, and the repeal of its legislation, the *Tradespersons' Rights Regulation Act 1946* (the TRR Act).

The RIS was sent to the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) on 9 March 2016 for formal comment in the first pass final assessment process. I thank you for your comments and am pleased to advise that the RIS has been amended. Our response to your feedback is detailed in the table attached to this letter.

Certain amendments requested by OBPR were unable to be addressed. Trades Recognition Australia consulted with OBPR on how best to address these points. Agreement was reached that they also be addressed and documented in the table.

I submit the RIS for the second pass final assessment.

Yours sincerely

Dr Subho Banerjee  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of Education and Training  
21 August 2016

*Opportunity through learning*

OBPR Feedback	TRA Responses
A one page executive summary of the RIS needs to be produced.	A RIS summary has been prepared and accompanies the RIS.
<p>The practical impacts and magnitude of the problem needs to be made clearer.</p> <p>Within this, the OBPR has requested additional industry information, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A description of alternatives available for migrants seeking skills recognition e.g. the Offshore Technical Skills Record (OTSR).</li> <li>- ARTC Program time series data to demonstrate whether the Program was already in decline.</li> <li>- Data on the proportion of applicants using the ARTC Program versus any alternatives.</li> </ul>	<p>The non-alignment of the ARTC Program and the national VET system has been explained more clearly. Further detail has been included to illustrate the flaws in the ARTC Program assessment process.</p> <p>The OTSR is not an alternative to an ARTC Program skills assessment; the nature and role of the Offshore Technical Skills Record is more clearly explained in section 1.3 of the RIS.</p> <p>The ARTC Program was not for migration. It was a domestic skills recognition service for Australian residents who had gained their trade skills outside an Australian apprenticeship.</p> <p>Recent ARTC Program data does not provide a true representation of program demand. This is because program changes were regularly introduced to tighten up the ARTC assessment process which increasingly did not align with the VET system.</p>
The objectives of government action to address the identified problem need to be stated.	The need to continue providing a skills assessment pathway to licensing for tradespeople who gained their skills outside an Australian apprenticeship has been more clearly stated. It is noted that only Australian Government endorsed registered training organisations can deliver this service.
A more in-depth and clearer analysis of the costs and benefits of each option is needed.	The cost-benefit analysis for each option has been reviewed and clarified or strengthened, where possible.
Savings associated with the identified regulatory offset were no longer available.	The regulatory offset has been updated.
There is not enough detail on the stakeholders concerns and their general views in the consultation section.	More detailed information about the challenges of replacing the ARTC Program and how they were addressed has been included.

<b>OBPR Feedback</b>	<b>TRA Responses</b>
<p>There is insufficient support in the RIS to claim that Options 1 and 3 were not viable. The RIS needs to clearly demonstrate that the preferred option (Option 2) would deliver the greatest net benefit.</p>	<p>Option 2 has been amended to illustrate more clearly it is the most cost effective option for a contemporary skills recognition service that includes a pathway to occupational licensing.</p>