EVALUATION OF THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION SCHEMES
DRAFT RESEARCH REPORT

The Northern Territory
Health Professions Licensing Authority
Response to the Productivity Commission

Preamble

The principal rationale of the Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) is to promote freedom of movement of goods and skilled people within Australia (and now New Zealand). The comments provided will focus on the preliminary findings specific to mobility for registered occupations.

1. Key Points

All the key points stated are supported and in particular the following statements that

- *"….. there are indications that these schemes have been effective overall in achieving their objectives…"*
- *"some modifications to coverage, administrative practices and review mechanisms would seem warranted…."*
- *" significant further progress in relation to the TTMRA special exemptions will require greater cooperation across agencies and jurisdictions to address inconsistent and cumbersome regulatory practices", and*
- *the effectiveness of the schemes would be enhanced by undertaking an awareness program on the obligations and benefits of mutual recognition, aimed at regulators, policy advisers and relevant industries and professions."*

2. Overview

It is encouraging to note that the Draft Report acknowledges the administrative issues pertaining to the provision for registered occupations, as specifically listed in the nine dot points on pages xxiv and xxv.

3. Preliminary Findings (comment relating to registered occupations only)

Preliminary Finding 4.2
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 4.3
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 4.4
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 5.1
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 5.2
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 5.3
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 5.4
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 5.5
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 5.6
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 5.7
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 5.8
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 5.9
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 5.10
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 7.16
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 9.6
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 9.10
Supported.

Preliminary Finding 9.11
Supported.

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