

# National Competition Council

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## Media Release

### Mutual Recognition Review – Consultation paper

The National Competition Council (the Council) has released a consultation paper for the *Review of Australia’s Mutual Recognition Schemes for Workers* (the Review). It summarises outcomes from submissions received to date and indicates the direction of the Council’s emerging findings on how mutual recognition can better support workforce mobility and productivity.

Mutual recognition (MR) allows a licensed worker to apply for an equivalent licence in another jurisdiction without further assessment. Automatic mutual recognition (AMR), introduced in 2021, allows eligible licensees to work across participating jurisdictions after notifying the local regulator.

The consultation paper draws on submissions to the Council’s Call for Submissions and targeted engagement. Themes raised include:

- MR works well for some occupations, especially where jurisdictions are closely aligned.
- Regulatory differences and local requirements can create uncertainty and reduce mobility.
- AMR could deliver greater benefits than traditional MR, but exemptions and Queensland’s non-participation limit its impact.
- Information sharing gaps, jurisdiction hopping, licence uplifting, and poor-quality or fraudulent RTOs may be undermining quality and safety.
- Better data, governance, digital licensing, and a national licensing register could improve the schemes’ effectiveness.
- National licensing may be appropriate for some occupations, and could be pursued through a staged approach where supported.

The Council is seeking feedback on the consultation paper and its consultation questions. This input will inform the Council’s recommendations for the final report to the Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR), due in July 2026.

The consultation paper is available on the Australian Treasury Consultation hub: [Review of Australia’s mutual recognition schemes for workers – Consultation paper - Consult hub](#).

**Submissions close on 22 May 2026.**

Questions related to the Review should be directed to [NationalCompetitionPolicy@treasury.gov.au](mailto:NationalCompetitionPolicy@treasury.gov.au).