

Information for Members

MUTUAL RECOGNITION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

1. What is it?

The Federal Government's Mutual Recognition Amendment Bill 2021 has been passed by the Senate. The reform enables registered workers to operate across jurisdictions, without having to apply, pay for and wait for a further registration to perform the same type of work in another State. Automatic mutual recognition (AMR) of occupational registrations will make it easier and faster for skilled workers to work across borders, assist with natural disasters, and enable businesses to provide services more seamlessly across borders.

The Federal Government considers that AMR could benefit over 120, 000 people who work across borders and may encourage more people to do so. It is expected that the AMR could also add approximately \$2.4 billion to the economy over the next ten years.

2. What will AMR give you and your business?

MBV believes that AMR could be great for areas affected by natural disasters when a lot of trades are needed at once. It may assist with trade shortages in some areas. AMR may also allow MBV members who work across borders (such as Albury/Wodonga etc.) greater flexibility across borders and reduce registration fees for members working in more than one State.

3. What are the concerns?

We still have some concerns here at MBV, including:

- There may be a risk to our industry and consumers where builders coming from interstate may not be aware of State-based legislative requirements such as Domestic Builder Insurance (DBI) and Company Registration, or the nuances of implementing contracts and permits in Victoria.
- There may be duplication and/or lack of awareness of insurances and levies such as Co-invest.
- It is unclear how the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) will monitor the standard of work being completed by builders using AMR.
- AMR may increase "registration and licence shopping" for example, Victoria has some of the highest registration requirements in Australia and people may register in other States where it is easier to gain registration, resulting in substandard building work.

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4. What is Master Builders doing about it?

We understand that there are many changes being introduced in our industry over the next year or two, such as mandatory registration of trades, licencing of trades and Continuing Professional Development.

MBV has been working closely with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to better understand the impacts of AMR on our members and our sector here in Victoria. One important area of activity includes discussion across jurisdictions to share information, including disciplinary approaches.

MBV will continue to keep members informed of the changes as we continue to work with the Victorian State Government and our national counterparts to understand the impact of this Bill on members and our industry.

5. Need further information from MBV?

If you would like further information on AMR, please contact MBV's Builder Registration team on 03 9411 4555 or e-mail registration@mbav.com.au

6. For information from the Government:

AMR for construction trades Fact Sheet

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/mobility-construction-trades.pdf>

AMR Improving occupational mobility

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/improving-occupational-mobility.pdf>