



Australian
**Small Business and
Family Enterprise**
Ombudsman

MEDIA STATEMENT

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New rules to allow small business tradies to follow the work

The Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman Bruce Billson says small business tradespeople will be able to meet the demand for their skills wherever they are in Australia under new laws passed by the Senate.

The Australian Government's Mutual Recognition Amendment Bill 2021, will make it easier for skilled workers to take up jobs across states and territories, without having to obtain a new licence for the same type of work in another jurisdiction.

Mr Billson says the reform will give thousands of small business tradespeople the flexibility to work in different areas of the country.

"This is a red tape buster that will help small business tradespeople who want to meet the demand for their skills across Australia," Ms Billson says.

"This reform offers small business employers the opportunity to secure skilled workers from interstate.

"It also means small business professionals such as architects and engineers to work more seamlessly across state borders.

"My office has worked closely with the Australian Government's Deregulation Taskforce to achieve this important reform. It is an excellent outcome for the small business tradespeople that will directly benefit from these changes.

"Importantly, while allowing freedom of movement across states and territories, the scheme also includes safeguards to maintain standards and protect consumers and workers.

"We welcome the Australian Government's \$11 million Budget commitment to implementing the scheme, which will be used in part to improve information exchanged between jurisdictions."

Further supporting legislation by the states and territories is expected to enable commencement of this scheme from 1 July, 2021.

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