

# CHANGES TO TRADE SKILLS ASSESSMENTS

## Fact Sheet for Agents

### Background

Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) has announced changes to the Trade Skills Assessment programs for TSS, OSAP and TRS. The following changes apply to all applications received from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### 1. Changes to the employment and training requirements for Pathway 1 assessments

The amount of verifiable employment evidence a Pathway 1 applicant must submit for their nominated occupation has been changed as follows:

- Licensed trade with no formal training – six years work experience
- Licensed trade with formal training – four years work experience
- Non-licensed trade with no formal training – five years work experience
- Non-licensed trade with formal training – three years work experience.

Additionally, all applicants must have completed at least 12 months of employment in their nominated occupation in the three years prior to lodging their application.

*\*TRA has defined 'formal training' as training that aligns with the national training standards in the applicant's country of training.*

**NOTE:** The requirements for Pathway 2 assessments are unchanged.

### 2. Changes to assessment fees

Fees for Trade Skills Assessments are now set by Trades Recognition Australia. Payment of these fees must be made directly to TRA. Information regarding the new fees is available at: <https://www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au/news-media/news/new-payment-arrangements-tss-program-osap-and-trs>

### 3. Changes to the evidence-submission and payment process

From the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019, VETASSESS requires new applications to be accompanied by **ALL** required Stage 1 documentary evidence. After applying and uploading evidence, you will make payment directly to TRA.

**NOTE:** Agents and applicants will **NOT** be able to upload further evidence after making payment.

Please refer to the below diagram:



#### 4. Postal application forms no longer accepted

VETASSESS is no longer accepting postal applications. All applications must be submitted online.

#### Frequently Asked Questions

##### Can I pay VETASSESS directly for any component of the assessment?

No. All fees associated with an assessment are payable directly to TRA.

NOTE: The exception is applicants who have paid for Stage 1 prior to 1<sup>st</sup> March, these applicants will pay VETASSESS directly for Stage 2.

##### Will applicants who applied for their assessment before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 be affected by these changes?

No. If the application was paid for before 1<sup>st</sup> March, the applicant will be assessed using the pre-1<sup>st</sup> March assessment criteria and assessment fees.

##### Are there any changes to the processes for withdrawals and refunds?

Yes. Applicants wishing to withdraw must first advise VETASSESS, then request a refund directly from Trades Recognition Australia. Refunds are subject to the TRA Payment and Refund Policy, and TRA Refund Request form, on the TRA website:

<https://www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au/forms-policy>

##### What is 'formal' training?

TRA has defined 'formal training' as training that aligns with the national training standards in the applicant's country of training.