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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Trade licence review to encourage free flow of skills

October 29, 2008

Unnecessary trade licences could be scrapped following a review by the Better Regulation Office, Regulatory Reform Minister Joe Tripodi announced today.

The Better Regulation Office is looking at 11 trade licences, including floor finisher and coverer, strata manager, optical dispenser, and entertainment industry manager, because they are only required in NSW, or in NSW and up to two other states.

“We want tradespeople to come here and work without red tape locking them out,” Mr Tripodi said.

“Requiring a licence for your trade in NSW alone stops interstate tradespeople from working here.

“While licensing does have benefits, you have to question whether it is necessary given the occupations are not licensed in other states and territories.

“Licensing can impose costs on licence holders in terms of fees and compliance costs and on the community by restricting supply of particular services”, Mr Tripodi said.

The Better Regulation Office review asks stakeholders to identify the costs and benefits of licensing for each of the 11 occupations and whether there are alternative ways of achieving the same outcomes.

The review is in response to a request from the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Skills Recognition Taskforce whose ultimate aim is a national trade licensing system.

The 11 licences under review are:

1. entertainment industry agent/manager
2. venue consultant
3. floor finisher and coverer
4. kit home supplier
5. lift mechanic
6. motor vehicle repairer

7. optical dispenser
8. property inspector (pre-purchase)
9. strata manager
10. structural landscaper
11. wool, hide and skin dealer.

The issues paper is available at www.betterregulation.nsw.gov.au.

Submissions are requested by November 28, 2008.

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