



Australian Government
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
Trades Recognition Australia

# COST RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT

## Trades Recognition Australia

**2025-26**

Cost recovery involves government entities charging individuals or non-government organisations some or all of the efficient costs of a regulatory activity. This may include goods, services or regulation, or a combination of them. The Australian Government Charging Framework, which incorporates the Cost Recovery Policy (the CRPs)<sup>1</sup>, sets out the framework under which government entities design, implement and review regulatory charging activities.

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<sup>1</sup> The Australian Government Charging Framework and the CRPs are available on the Department of Finance website ([www.finance.gov.au](http://www.finance.gov.au)).

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Purpose

This Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) provides information on how Trades Recognition Australia implements cost recovery for its six assessment pathways of:

1. Provisional Skills Assessment
2. Job Ready Program
3. Migration Skills Assessment
4. Migration Points Advice
5. RTO Assessment Services: Offshore Skills Assessment Program and
6. RTO Assessment Services: Temporary Skills Shortage Skills Assessment Program.

The CRIS also reports financial and non-financial performance information for these Trades Recognition Australia services and contains financial forecasts for 2023-24 and three forward years. The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (the Department) will maintain the CRIS until the activity or cost recovery for the activity has been discontinued.

## 1.2. Trades Recognition Australia

Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) is an approved skilled migration assessing authority, authorised under the Migration Regulations 1994 (Migration Regulations), offering skills assessments for people with trade skills gained overseas or in Australia for the purpose of migration.

Skills assessments are intended to ensure an applicant can perform at the required skill level for their nominated occupation in an Australian workplace. Skills assessments also give assurance to government and the individual that their training and experience is relevant and appropriate for the Australian labour market.

This is an output to achieve the Government's skilled migration policy outcomes to attract migrants that make a significant contribution to the Australian economy and fill positions where no Australian workers are available.

Trades Recognition Australia is one of 39 approved skilled migration assessing authorities and is the approved authority for assessing applicants for 133 of the occupations designated on the Skilled Occupation List maintained by the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs).

The occupations Trades Recognition Australia is responsible for assessing are identified in a range of legislative Instruments as outlined in **Table 1**.

## 1.3. Description of the regulatory charging activity

Charging for the Trades Recognition Australia skills assessment pathways ensures applicants contribute to the cost of program administration and regulation. These assessments present a personal benefit to applicants. For applicants, a successful skills assessment is used to access either migration, licensing, or employment, or as a basis for further trade training.

The prices of the charges raised are for cost recovery and are set to recover the efficient full costs of specific activities (Figure 1 and Figure 2 refers). The Australian Government Charging Framework, which incorporates the Government's CRGs, sets out the framework under which government entities design, implement and review regulatory charging activities. The

Government’s overarching charging policy is that, where appropriate, non-government recipients of regulatory activities should be charged some or all of the efficient costs of those activities.

The cost recovery policy promotes consistent, transparent and accountable charging for government regulatory activity and supports the proper use of public resources.

**Table 1: Trades Recognition Australia Legislative Instruments**

Legislative instrument (specifying the assessing authority)	Visa subclass
Migration (LIN 19/051: Specification of Occupations and Assessing Authorities) Instrument 2019	Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189) – Points-tested stream  Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491)  Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190)  Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) – Graduate Work
Migration (LIN 24/089: Specification of Occupations—Subclass 482 Visa) Instrument 2024	Skills in Demand (SiD) visa (subclass 482)
Migration (LIN 24/093: Specification of Occupations and Relevant Assessing Authorities—Subclass 186 Visa) Instrument 2024	Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) visa (subclass 186)
IMMI 12/096: Specification of Occupations and Assessing Authorities	Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) visa (subclass 187)
Migration (LIN 19/050: Specification of Occupations—Subclass 407 Visa) Instrument 2019	Training visa (subclass 407)
Migration (LIN 19/260: Assessing Authorities for Subclass 494 Visas) Instrument 2019	Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 494)

Trades Recognition Australia conducts skills assessments across six pathways, explained further below, which differ depending on the eligibility criteria, processes, fees, and final outcomes.

### **Pathway 1: Provisional Skills Assessment**

Provisional Skills Assessment is a desktop verification of an applicant’s Australian Qualifications Framework qualification and any relevant employment or vocational placement undertaken in an Australian workplace. This step is undertaken by Trades Recognition Australia staff and a successful outcome can be used for a Temporary Graduate work stream visa (subclass 485) and will enable a participant to progress through the Job Ready Program.

### **Pathway 2: Job Ready Program (three steps)**

#### **Job Ready Employment**

Job Ready Employment is undertaken by Trades Recognition Australia staff who monitor a participant over a minimum 12-month period as they gain experience in an Australian workplace to further develop skills relevant to their nominated occupation.

### Job Ready Workplace Assessment

These assessments are undertaken by Trades Recognition Australia approved RTOs contracted to deliver this service. It is generally conducted in the participant's workplace to determine whether they are working at the required skill level for their nominated occupation.

### Job Ready Final Assessment

The final assessment is undertaken by Trades Recognition Australia staff once the participant has met program requirements with the issuing of a successful outcome. The outcome will satisfy the skills assessment requirement for an application with Home Affairs for an independent skilled migration visa.

### Pathway 3: Migration Skills Assessment

Migration Skills Assessment is available to anyone, onshore and offshore, applying for a permanent skilled migration visa in an occupation and country that is not required to be assessed by another Trades Recognition Australia pathway. To be eligible, an applicant's occupation must be listed on the Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List or the Short-term Skilled Occupations List, must be directly relevant to their qualification or apprenticeship and must be directly relevant to their employment.

The Migration Skills Assessment is a documentary evidence-based assessment of an applicant's qualification and employment history to determine whether this is comparable with Australian standards for a skilled worker in their nominated occupation.

Trades Recognition Australia staff review the verifiable documentary evidence provided by applicants to confirm it is comparable to an AQF qualification for the applicants' nominated occupation, as well as employment evidence demonstrating the applicants' skills and experience at the standard necessary to work in their nominated occupation in Australia.

### Pathway 4: Migration Points Advice

Migration Points Advice is available for anyone, onshore or offshore, with a successful Trades Recognition Australia skills assessment outcome, who wants to apply to the Department of Home Affairs for a points-tested, independent skilled migration visa.

The Migration Points Advice is a documentary evidence-based assessment which is used to meet Home Affairs points requirements for skilled migration. A Migration Points Advice identifies an applicant's comparable qualifications and periods of relevant employment.

Trades Recognition Australia staff review the verifiable documentary evidence provided by applicants to confirm it is comparable to an AQF qualification for the applicants' nominated occupation, as well as employment evidence demonstrating the applicants' skills and experience at the standard necessary to work in their nominated occupation in Australia.

### Pathway 5 and 6: RTO Assessment Services | Offshore Skills Assessment Program and the Temporary Skills Shortage Skills Assessment

The Offshore Skills Assessment Program and Temporary Skills Shortage Skills Assessment Program are for permanent and temporary migration respectively. Trades Recognition Australia engages RTOs to perform aspects of the skills assessment process on its behalf under these programs. The skills assessments are for non-Australian passport holders who have gained trade skills overseas or in Australia in nominated occupations (Offshore Skills Assessment Program has 30 and Temporary Skills Shortage Skills Assessment Program has 23) for the purpose of migration and skills recognition.

The skills assessment begins with a documentary evidence assessment that reviews the documents that provide evidence of the applicant's identification, qualifications and employment experience.

If successful, the applicant will be required to participate in a technical assessment of skills and knowledge, conducted by a qualified assessor who will also be a qualified tradesperson in your nominated occupation.

The assessor collects evidence to determine if the applicant can undertake the full range of tasks expected of a tradesperson in Australia for the nominated occupation against the Australian qualification nominated for that occupation. This will involve a technical interview of skills and gathering evidence from nominated employers or other referees.

If the applicant is applying for a nominated occupation that requires a licence, a practical assessment will also take place. The four nominated licenced occupations are Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic, Electrician (General), Electrician (Special Class) and Plumber (General).

Successful applicants in the non-licensed occupations will be awarded the relevant Australian VET qualification, if they do not already hold one, and a skilled migration outcome letter that can be used to support a visa application. If the occupation was licenced, the applicant will receive the skilled migration outcome letter as well as an Offshore Technical Skills Record that will allow the applicant to seek provisional licencing while they undertake additional work experience and training before being the qualification and granted a full licence (upon application to the relevant authority in their chosen jurisdiction).

The only material difference between the assessment processes is that a Temporary Skills Shortage Skills Assessment is aligned to a specific visa class and is expected to take no more than nine weeks from the first application payment to completion while an Offshore Skills Assessment Program is expected to take no more than 15 weeks

## 2. POLICY AND STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CHARGE

### 2.1. Government policy approval to cost recover the regulatory activity

Authority for implementation of cost recovery of Trades Recognition Australia programs occurred in two stages:

**Stage 1:** The Offshore Skills Assessment Program and the Temporary Skills Shortage Skills Assessment Program commenced cost recovery activity on 1 March 2019<sup>2</sup> following implementation of partial cost recovery arrangements announced as part of the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2015-16<sup>3</sup>.

**Stage 2:** The Job Ready Program, Migration Points Advice and Migration Skills Assessments, commenced full cost recovery on 1 September 2021 as part of the 2021-22 Budget<sup>4</sup>.

The Australian Government announced as part of the Stage 2 implementation that a review of all cost recovery arrangements would occur in July 2022 with a view to amalgamating Trades Recognition Australia activities into a single cost recovery model and provide for an initial

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<sup>2</sup> <https://archive.budget.gov.au/2019-20/bp2/download/bp2.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://archive.budget.gov.au/2015-16/myefo/MYEFO\\_2015-16\\_Final.pdf](https://archive.budget.gov.au/2015-16/myefo/MYEFO_2015-16_Final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://archive.budget.gov.au/2021-22/bp2/download/bp2\\_2021-22.pdf](https://archive.budget.gov.au/2021-22/bp2/download/bp2_2021-22.pdf)

review including new outsourced contracting arrangements, and to take effect by around September 2022.

Following this initial review, the single Trades Recognition Australia cost recovery model will be reviewed biennially, commencing in 2024-25. The Trades Recognition Australia cost recovery model has been reviewed ahead of 2024-25 due to significant increase in demand. A subsequent official review will commence in 2025-26 to reflect the biennial review arrangement.

## 2.2. Statutory authority to charge

Trades Recognition Australia is a skilled migration assessing authority, authorised under the Government's skilled migration program operating under the Migration Act 1958<sup>5</sup> and the Migration Regulations 1994<sup>6</sup>, to assess the trade skills of prospective migrants.

Authority for Trades Recognition Australia to charge fees for assessment of a person's work qualifications and experience is provided by Regulation 5.40(1) of the Migration Regulations, with specific fees detailed in Migration (Fees for assessment of qualifications and experience) Instrument (LIN 23/002) 2023<sup>7</sup>.

## 3. COST RECOVERY MODEL

### 3.1. Outputs and business processes of the regulatory charging activity

The Cost Recovery Guidelines note the need to break down the activity into distinct outputs and the key business processes that are used to produce those outputs. These outputs should have a discernible link with the costs, charges and performance of the activity.

This section describes the outputs and business processes for Trades Recognition Australia's activities.

Trades Recognition Australia has two activities, which are:

- assessing applications and reviews, which contains outputs and business processes that are assessment-based (initiated by an application to Trades Recognition Australia for a skills assessment), and
- program management and administration, which contains outputs and business processes that are non-assessment-based (initiated by Trades Recognition Australia for business-as-usual operations)

These activities are broken down into the outputs and business processes in Figures 1 and 2. The outputs and business processes are based on the Department's experience of key regulatory impacts of the program.

The business processes associated with effort expended on assessing applications and reviews are shown in Figure 1, while business processes associated with effort expended on program management and administration, including IT maintenance and compliance, are shown in Figure 2.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C1958A00062/latest/text>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F1996B03551/latest/text>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2023L00320/latest/text>

These types of cost recovery activities, and their corresponding outputs and business processes, are consistent with the Cost Recovery Guidelines.

**Figure 1. Activity 1 –applications delivery and review.**

<b>Output 1: Receive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enquiry response and mailbox management Case officer allocation.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2: Assess</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identity and document verification</li> <li>• Work experience or vocational placement experience verification</li> <li>• Review skills progress reports and pay evidence</li> <li>• Knowledge and practical assessment</li> <li>• Qualifications verification review</li> <li>• Site visits</li> </ul>
<b>Output 3: Decide</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality assurance</li> <li>• Compliance review and investigation</li> <li>• Notification of outcome Finalise application</li> </ul>
<b>Output 4: Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome management (Quality Assurance) Review of outcome decision</li> </ul>

**Figure 2. Activity 2 – program management and administration.**

<b>Output 1: Program administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enquiry line</li> <li>• RTO contract management</li> <li>• Finance – accounts management</li> <li>• Internal Reporting and data management</li> <li>• Home Affairs liaison</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement – Participants, RTOs, and industry leaders</li> <li>• Process review and statistical input</li> <li>• Request for tender (RFT)</li> <li>• Internal data coordination requests</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Demand forecasts and financial modelling</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2: IT support and maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web publishing</li> <li>• IT system maintenance</li> <li>• Technical coordination</li> <li>• Password resets</li> </ul>
<b>Output 3: Compliance and audit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality assurance</li> <li>• Program fraud and integrity</li> <li>• Program risk management</li> <li>• Financial audits</li> <li>• RTO compliance</li> <li>• RTO reporting</li> </ul>
<b>Output 4: Program Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy governance</li> <li>• Updates to program guidelines</li> <li>• Coordination requests</li> <li>• Policy changes</li> <li>• Legal matters</li> </ul>

### 3.2. Costs of the regulatory charging activity

The **cost driver** is the number of applications registered for each of the six different assessment pathways.



The cost to conduct a skills assessment has been determined according to the following methodology:

- Identifying the business processes that comprise a skills assessment for each applicant/participant.
- Estimating the effort (time) and skill level required to complete each activity.
- Identifying whether these costs are direct, indirect or capital related.
- Determining the annual cost of assessing each type of application
- Multiplying the full cost of assessing each application by the demand gives the full cost price.
- Determining the fee by averaging the total cost price for the business cycle and rounding this to the nearest \$5.00.

**Table 2** below states the costs of regulatory activities for Trades Recognition Australia and have been derived using the costs incurred by Trades Recognition Australia to deliver each of the assessment pathways for 2025-26.

The costs incurred in the delivery of Trades Recognition Australia include:

- **Direct** costs are expenses attributable to the effort involved in undertaking business processes directly linked to each individual applicant's Trades Recognition Australia skills assessment, including salaries and departmental on costs - these have been calculated using the Department's costing template
- **Indirect** costs are expenses related to IT support and maintenance and general program management and administration including financial support, contract management, responding to enquires, program risk and compliance settings and quality assurance processes
- **Capital** related costs have not been incurred through this program.

The regulatory charging activities will be internally reviewed on an annual basis to ensure anticipated demand and revenue is within acceptable thresholds, with a formal published biennial review of the cost recovery model and charging risk assessments commencing in 2025-26.

**Table 2: Costs of regulatory charging activities for TRA – business cycle 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.**

Output/Business Process	Direct Costs \$'000	Indirect Costs \$'000	Total \$'000
Provisional Skills Assessment	\$2,210	\$824	\$3,034
Job Ready Employment	\$3,054	\$4,013	\$7,067
Job Ready Workplace Assessment	\$33,116	\$2,189	\$35,305
Job Ready Final Assessment	\$520	\$419	\$939
Migration Skills Assessment	\$2,772	\$1,098	\$3,870
Migration Skills Assessment Review	\$37	\$13	\$50
Migration Points Advice	\$148	\$42	\$190
Migration Points Review	\$2	\$0	\$2
RTO Assessment Services: Offshore Skills Assessment Program, and Temporary Skills Shortage Skills Assessment	\$50,397	\$1,974	\$52,371
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$92,256</b>	<b>\$10,572</b>	<b>\$102,828</b>

### 3.3. Design of regulatory charges

The costs of delivering the different steps of a skills assessment have been determined using the costs incurred by Trades Recognition Australia to deliver the six pathways.

Each business process has been broken down into various activities. Business processes have been calculated per activity by staffing level, effort (time) and demand.

Table 3 lists the proposed applicant fees, demand and forecast revenue under the charging model to recover the costs of regulatory activities for the 2025-26 financial year.

The cost recovery aligns with the portfolio government processes and the obligations of the Portfolio Charging Review for the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations scheduled for 2024. Trades Recognition Australia fees will be published on the Trades Recognition Australia website [www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au](http://www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au).

**Table 3: Charge rates and revenue estimates for the 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026 business cycle**

Charge Title	Fee	Estimated Volume	Estimated Total Revenue \$'000
<b>Provisional Skills Assessment</b>			
Provisional Skills Assessment	\$130	22,050	\$2,867
<b>Job Ready Program</b>			
Job Ready Program - Job Ready Employment	\$490	14,050	\$6,885
Job Ready Program - Job Ready Workplace Assessment	\$2,845	12,250	\$34,851
Job Ready Program -Job Ready Final Assessment	\$75	11,450	\$859
<b>Job Ready Program - Total</b>	<b>\$3,540</b>	<b>37,750</b>	<b>\$42,595</b>
<b>Migration Skills Assessment/Migration Points Advice</b>			
Migration Skills Assessment	\$795	4,850	\$3,856
Migration Skills Assessment Review	\$610	80	\$49
Migration Points Advice	\$450	400	\$180
Migration Points Review	\$375	7	\$3
<b>RTO Assessment Services</b>			
RTO Assessment Services Application Fee	\$220	16,950	\$3,839
Documentary Evidence Assessment	\$1,120	16,950	\$15,225
Technical Interview - Pathway 1	\$2,000	12,700	\$25,400
Technical Interview - Pathway 2	\$900	4,250	\$3,825
Practical Assessment	\$2,200	1,700	\$3,740
Documentary Evidence Reassessment	\$450	175	\$79
Technical Reassessment - Pathway 1	\$1,000	131	\$131
Technical Reassessment - Pathway 2	\$450	44	\$20
Practical Reassessment	\$1,100	17	\$19
Review	\$700	170	\$119
<b>RTO Assessment Services - Total</b>			<b>\$52,397</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>			<b>\$101,947</b>

## 4. Risk assessment

As part of the design of the CRIS, Trades Recognition Australia completed a Charging Risk Assessment (CRA), pursuant to the Charging Framework. According to the CRA methodology, the overall rating for the proposed cost recovery model for Trades Recognition Australia is medium. There is an inherent risk that, over time, these fees may not capture the efficient cost of service delivery.

TRA's Cost Recovery Model is set over a period of four years and as part of its risk mitigation strategy, if actual demand or internal financial reviews vary from the forecast by more than 20 per cent in the first year, 15 per cent in the first two years or ten per cent in the first three years, the CRIS will be reviewed for the following financial year and fees changed based on revised expectations, if needed. Trades Recognition Australia will inform applicants of any changes by publishing notifications on its website.

Trades Recognition Australia will utilise a quarterly moving average of demand analysis and undertake internal annual financial reviews to monitor its demand forecasts and costs.

## 5. Stakeholder Engagement

To provide applicants and other stakeholders, such as migration agents and RTOs, the opportunity to comment on the revised cost recovery fees, Trades Recognition Australia released a Consultation Paper on the Department's website.

An announcement about the consultation process was made on the Trades Recognition Australia page of the Department's website, as well as a news item on the Trades Recognition Australia website. The Department also emailed key stakeholders directly to advise them of the consultation process and invite their feedback.

The consultation period occurred between 5 August 2022 to 12 August 2022 and four submissions were received.

Two responses were from organisations engaged to deliver technical assessments on behalf of Trades Recognition Australia. These submissions requested clarity in relation to how cost recovery fees charged to participants relate to the payments made to these organisations under the services deed.

The payment schedules contained in services deeds are agreements between the respective organisation and Trades Recognition Australia for the period of time in which the deed is current and subject to the respective terms and conditions of that deeds. Payments made under these arrangements may be renegotiated during variations or extensions, or during Request for Tender procurement arrangements. In those situations, Trades Recognition Australia will utilise the annual CRIS review to recalculate its cost structure, which includes payments contracted for technical assessments, and if needed, amend the fees charged to participants as set out in its charge rate at **Table 3**.

Two responses were received from organisations in related migration skills and vocational education fields. One of these responses suggested additional transparency would be beneficial in relation to the specific calculation and estimation of outputs and business processes, for example staff time to undertake assessments and forecast methodology, and an independent assessment to consider efficiencies of internal process to manifest in lower charges and consider the impact of these charges on the sector.

Trades Recognition Australia is committed to identifying efficiencies to improve service and lower charge rates for migrants. Since 2019 Trades Recognition Australia has implemented a range of system and document management efficiencies which have reduced staff time to undertake assessments. Cost modelling underpinning the CRIS is subject to rigorous independent review by the Department of Finance. The forecast methodology has been included with detailed demand under Section 7 and Trades Recognition Australia is committed to conduct an annual review, as recommended, to ensure ongoing efficiency gains are reflected in lower charges.

## 6. Financial estimates

Financial performance for the Trades Recognition Australia charging arrangement for the assessment pathways is provided at **Table 4** below. The 2023-24 financial year and forward years will be updated each year as financial information becomes available.

The key non-financial driver for applicant fees will be the number of registered applications. The applicant fee assumes demand will increase year on year, as outlined in **Table 4** below.

Demand estimates are based on analysis of the historical average percentage difference year on year and applying this into future years. It should be noted that the impact of COVID is not moderated due to the decreased significance of impact. Nevertheless, Trades Recognition Australia acknowledges the current competitiveness of the international labour market will require an increased emphasis on skilled migration to ensure a domestic labour market position of low unemployment.

A risk for Trades Recognition Australia is that if actual demand varies significantly from the forecast, the fees may over or under recover the delivery costs of the activity. This may occur due to external factors such as changes to global migration patterns, skilled migration reforms, and the unemployment rate, both in Australia and globally.

There is the potential for a significant variation from the estimated revenue. Therefore, as per the CRA, Trades Recognition Australia will accept up to and including a 20 per cent variation from the amount of applicant registrations for its assessment pathways.

Any variation greater than 20 per cent will prompt a review of the charging activities and any changes will be reflected in the subsequent financial year.

**Table 4:** Financial estimates 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2027

Financial Item	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000
Expenses – Administered	\$68,998	\$75,303	\$79,506	\$89,310
Expenses – Departmental*	\$21,718	\$22,380	\$23,320	\$24,745
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$90,716</b>	<b>\$97,683</b>	<b>\$102,826</b>	<b>\$114,055</b>
Revenue	\$97,075	\$92,253	\$101,974	\$112,439
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$97,075</b>	<b>\$92,253</b>	<b>\$101,974</b>	<b>\$112,439</b>
Balance = Revenue - Expenses	\$6,359	(\$5,430)	(\$852)	(\$1,617)
<b>Cumulative Balance</b>	<b>\$6,359</b>	<b>\$929</b>	<b>\$77</b>	<b>(\$1,539)</b>

## 7a. Financial performance

The six assessment pathways that make up the Trades Recognition Australia skilled assessment programs operate on a fee-for-service basis with applicants directly paying for their skills assessment. The six programs commenced operating cost recovery at different dates, including some with partial government subsidisation.

Trades Recognition Australia utilises a combination of administered and departmental funding streams. Administered funding is for payment of contracted technical and practical assessments through Registered Training Organisations, and departmental funding for internal staffing and related costs.

Due to the different periods of commencing cost recovery, including part way through the 2021-22 financial year, historical financial performance data is not available. Trades Recognition Australia will release this information annually for financial year 2022-23 onwards.

## 7b. Non-financial performance

The key non-financial driver for the Trades Recognition Australia CRIS is the number of registered applications across each of the assessment pathways. These will be monitored on a monthly basis and compared to the financial data for that month.

Demand estimates are based on analysis of the historical average percentage difference year on year and applying this into future years. It should be noted that the impact of COVID is not moderated due to the decreased significance of impact. Nevertheless, Trades Recognition Australia acknowledges the current competitiveness of the international labour market will require an increased emphasis on skilled migration to ensure a domestic labour market position of low unemployment.

The estimated registration in **Table 5** will drive the estimated revenue. Therefore, up to and including a 20 per cent variation in the first year, 15 per cent in the first two years or ten per cent in the first three years from the amount of applicant registrations for each assessment pathway. Any variation outside these thresholds will trigger a review of the charging activities and any changes will be reflected in a subsequent CRIS.

**Table 5: Historical and forecast volume actuals and estimates**

Demand estimates for 2023-24 onwards are based on historical program growth averages with allowance for current policy settings relating to skilled migration and domestic labour market demand.

Pathway Stage	Total registrations	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Provisional Skills Assessment	Actuals (a)	4,800	6,475	6,119	8,654	14,934	16,996*	18,316			
	Forecast (b)				6,400	7,500	12,100*	19,050	21,000	22,050	22,050
Job Ready Program – Job Ready Employment	Actuals (a)	2,016	3,983	3,986	4,616	8,219	13,327	16,478			
	Forecast (b)				4,500	5,300	11,500	15,600	13,250	14,050	14,200
Job Ready Program – Job Ready Workplace Assessment	Actuals (a)	851	1,931	3,347	4,112	4,357	8,277	16,420			
	Forecast (b)				4,000	4,700	9,709	17,100	11,600	12,250	12,800
Job Ready Program – Job Ready Final Assessment	Actuals (a)	609	1,401	3,183	3,765	4,407	6,068	12,963			
	Forecast (b)				3,500	4,200	6,200	13,150	12,500	11,450	12,050
Migrant Skills Assessment	Actuals	1,828	1,293	1,404	1,304	1,457	2,855	3,350			
	Forecast				1,600	1,600	1,700	3,350	4,050	4,850	5,800
Migrant Skills Assessment Review	Actuals	2	6	4	15	54	34	248			
	Forecast				4	4	60	60	70	80	100
Migrant Points Advice	Actuals	209	220	175	117	229	260	271			
	Forecast				200	300	270	300	350	400	500
Migrant Points Advice Review	Actuals	0	2	2	0	3	0	4			
	Forecast				2	2	4	5	6	7	8
RTO Assessment Services	Actuals	5,165	1,332	4,592	4,288	5,623	9,733	11,266			
[Offshore Skills Assessment Program, and Temporary Skills Shortage Skills Assessment]	Forecast				7,855	9,034	6,500	13,200	15,200	17,450	20,100

\*Home Affairs removal of skills assessment requirements for 485 visa holders for the 2022-23 financial year and reinstated the requirement in 2023-24.

## 8. Key forward dates and events

Date	Event
<b>August 2025</b>	RTO Assessment Fee Tender Process
<b>September 2025</b>	Formal CRIS review

## 9. CRIS approval and change register

Date	CRIS change	Approver	Basis for Change
<b>25 October 2018</b>	Draft RTO Assessment Services CRIS	Department of Finance	New regulatory charging activity
<b>19 December 2018</b>	Final RTO Assessment Services CRIS	Minister for Finance and the Public Service	Final approval
<b>18 July 2021</b>	Certification of TRA JRP, MSA and MPA CRIS	Secretary, Department of Education, Skills and Employment	Updated cost recovery arrangements
<b>4 August 2021</b>	Approval of TRA JRP, MSA and MPA CRIS	Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business	Updated cost recovery arrangements
<b>21 August 2021</b>	Agreement to release TRA JRP, MSA and MPA CRIS	Agreement to release by Minister of Finance	Final approval
<b>15 September 2022</b>	Certification of amalgamated and updated TRA CRIS	Secretary, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Final approval
<b>25 April 2024</b>	Updates to financial information, demand and revenue forecasts.	Department of Finance	Final approval