



Australian Government
**Department of Education,
Skills and Employment**

Trades Recognition Australia

Fees, Payment and Refund Policy

November 2020

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1. General Information

1.1 Introduction

Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) is a business unit located within the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. It is the skills assessing authority for a range of technical and tradesperson occupations specified by the Australian Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs) (www.homeaffairs.gov.au).

TRA skills assessments are intended to ensure that a successful applicant can perform at the required skill level for their nominated occupation. They also provide an assurance to government and to the individual that their training and experience is relevant and appropriate for the Australian labour market.

1.2 Program eligibility

The payment and refund information in this policy document relates to the following TRA programs:

- Job Ready Program (JRP)
- Migration Points Advice (MPA)
- Migration Skills Assessment (MSA)
- Offshore Skills Assessment Program (OSAP)
- Trades Recognition Service (TRS) Note this program closes on 1 December 2020
- Temporary Skills Shortage Assessment Program (TSS)

1.3 Fee Schedules

The Fee Schedules for skills assessment services provided under each of TRA's programs are published in the relevant guidelines for each program.

The fees that TRA charges under its programs are specified in legislative instrument made under sub regulation 5.40(1) of the *Migration Regulations 1994* (see: [Migration \(LIN 19/034: Fees for Assessment of Qualifications and Experience\) Instrument 2019](#)).

Fee schedules are subject to change. TRA will give reasonable notice of any proposed fee increases. Notices regarding proposed fee increases will be published on the TRA website and in the relevant program guidelines.

1.4 Migration agents and authorised representatives

Registered migration agents or authorised persons acting on behalf of a TRA applicant may make payments for an applicant, so long as the applicant has submitted an *Agent Nomination Form* (available from the TRA website).

Migration agents or authorised representatives may request a refund on behalf of an applicant if the payment has been made on the applicant's behalf. Both applicant and agent are required to sign the *Refund Request Form*.

1.5 Contacting TRA

Online	www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au
Email	traenquiries@dese.gov.au
Phone	+61 2 6240 8778 (outside Australia)
Phone	1300 360 992 (within Australia)
Post	Trades Recognition Australia Department of Education, Skills and Employment GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA

2. Online Payments

2.1 Making an online payment

All online payments are made through the TRA Online Portal via the [TRA website](http://www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au) (www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au).

Online payments can only be made by Visa or MasterCard credit and debit cards. Other methods such as electronic funds transfer, cheque, money order and BPAY are not offered for TRA programs.

Payments cannot be made in instalments.

After payment, an email containing the receipt will be sent automatically to the email address nominated on the application. It is important to retain the email receipt as evidence of payment.

If an applicant believes a payment has been made but they have not received a receipt, they should not attempt to pay again. Applicants should contact TRA for advice on the contact details provided in section 1.4 of this policy document.

OSAP, TRS and TSS program applicants

Before commencing the payment process, applicants for the OSAP, TRS and TSS programs must obtain the relevant RTO Assessment Payment Identifier Code (payment code) from the TRA-approved registered training organisation (RTO) they have selected to conduct their skills assessment.

Once a payment has been made, the applicant should present the payment receipt to their chosen RTO to start the skills assessment process.

2.2 Applications received without evidence of fee payment

If TRA or a TRA-approved RTO receives an application for a skills assessment without a corresponding, valid payment, it will be returned. If they wish to proceed with a skills assessment, applicants can then make a payment for services and resubmit their application to TRA.

Applicants should retain a copy of their payment receipt as evidence of their payment.

3. Refunds

Fees will only be refunded by TRA where:

- An applicant pays duplicate fees for the one service.
- An applicant pays for a program, or program step, other than the one they wish to apply for.
- A migration agent or authorised representative makes a payment in a name other than the applicants.
- An applicant has an original assessment decision overturned following a Review as described in the *Assessment Review Policy*.

3.1 Discretionary refunds

TRA may, at its discretion, refund a fee for reasons other than those described above. TRA will advise the applicant to apply for a refund should this occur.

3.2 When TRA will not refund fees

TRA will not refund fees where an applicant:

- does not meet program eligibility requirements
- JRP, MPA and MSA only - applies online and fails to provide the application documents within the specified timeframes.
- For OSAP, TRS and TSS programs only:
 - For documentary evidence assessments - withdraws after decision ready documents have been supplied to their chosen RTO.
 - For Technical Assessments, withdraws after the Technical Interview/Practical Assessment has taken place.

3.3 Requesting a refund

Applicants must complete and sign a *Refund Request Form* available from the *Forms & Policy* section on the TRA website.

If a migration agent or authorised representative requests a refund on behalf of an applicant, both the applicant and agent must sign the form.

The Refund Request Form must be emailed as a PDF document to TRA (traenquiries@dese.gov.au).

TRA will consider the refund request and determine whether a refund will be provided, based on the above criteria.

For OSAP, TRS and TSS programs, applicants that have withdrawn are required to provide evidence they have notified their RTO in writing of their withdrawal. Applicants will not be eligible for a refund if they withdraw after decision ready documents have been provided to their RTO, or the technical interview/practical assessment have taken place.

Failure to provide appropriate details or evidence to support a refund request may result in processing delays.

Enquiries about the status of a refund request can be sent to TRAFinance@dese.gov.au.

3.4 Payment of approved refunds

TRA will notify the applicant (or nominated agent or authorised representative) of the outcome of the refund request. The standard processing time is 15 business days from receipt of a valid *Refund Request Form*.

All refunds will be paid directly back onto the credit card or debit card used in the original online payment.

All refunds will be paid in Australian dollars. The Department is not responsible for any foreign exchange losses.

Note: Most refunds will be credited back to the relevant credit/debit card within two weeks of TRA completing the refund. However, this may vary depending on the country the payment is being made to and the financial institution.

4. Document particulars

TRA may, in its discretion, amend this refund policy at any time and without notice. If TRA amends this refund policy, all refund applications made on or after the date of amendment will be assessed under the amended policy. Applicants and agent's should familiarise themselves with this refund policy at the time of making an application for a refund.

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5. Recent document change history

Version	Date published	Authors	Summary of change	Authorised by
7.0	March 2015	TRA	Change to Department name	Dr Melissa McEwen, General Manager, TRA
8.0	March 2017	TRA	Minor clarification of refund process. Refunds now processed to credit cards	Anne Flynn, A/g Branch Manager, Foundation Skills and TRA
9.0	June 2017	TRA	Removal of references to the Optional Skills Assessment Service	Anne Flynn, A/g Branch Manager, Foundation Skills and TRA

Version	Date published	Authors	Summary of change	Authorised by
10.0	April 2018	TRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update information to reflect the new Department of Home Affairs (formerly the Department of Immigration and Border Protection) Change program name to reflect abolition of the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) and the introduction of the Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa 	Kevin Brahim, Branch Manager, State Network and TRA
11.0	March 2019	TRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to include the TSS, OSAP and TRS programs General revision 	Dr Richard Chadwick, Branch Manager, Tuition Assurance Taskforce and TRA.
12.0	November 2020	TRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to include fee schedule information General revision 	Jane Hayden Assistant Secretary, Trades Recognition Australia Branch