



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2018/GOS/SYM/014**

# **The Role of Standards and Recognition: The Australian Experience**

Submitted by: Australia



**Symposium on Services Trade  
Singapore  
30 May – 1 June 2018**



**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

# **THE ROLE OF STANDARDS AND RECOGNITION: THE AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE**

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Thursday May 31, 2018

# MUTUAL RECOGNITION

Australia's experience with Free Trade Agreements -

- Part of market access under our FTAs
- Often a separate chapter on professional services

Through APEC -

- Services Competitiveness Roadmap 2016-2025
- Second dotpoint directly addresses MRAs

*“Supporting cross-border mobility for professionals, building on initiatives such as the APEC Architects and Engineers Registers to facilitate mutual recognition arrangements”*



# APEC WORKSHOP ON BEST PRACTICE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, 12 APRIL 2018

- Socialised draft “Principles for the International Recognition of Professional Qualifications, Registration, Membership, Certification and Licensing within the APEC community”
  - ❖ Five key areas
  - ❖ Workshop participants expressed support for the above principles
  - ❖ Share handout and discuss

# DRAFT PRINCIPLES

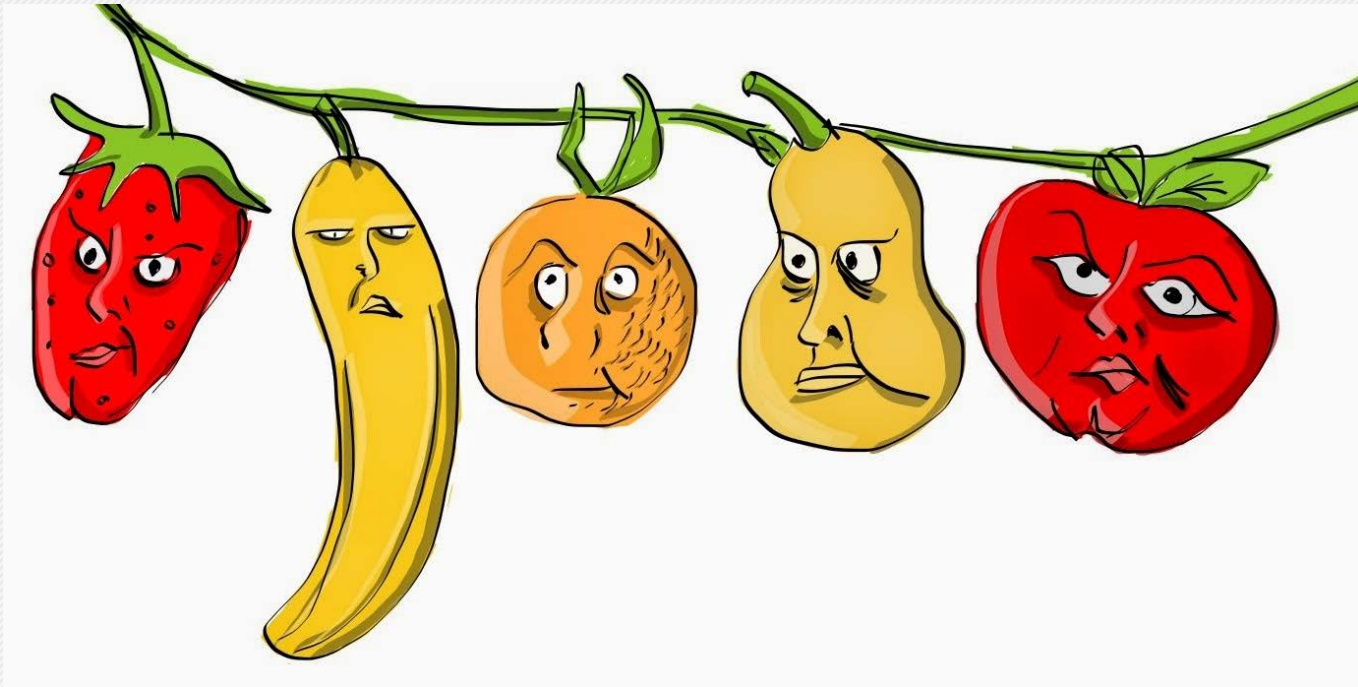
- Five key areas
  1. Procedures to assess competency
  2. Transparent recognition processes
  3. Non-discriminatory
  4. Pathways for overseas professionals
    - ❖ Examinations
    - ❖ Ability to upgrade to meet full requirements
  5. Timeframes for processing and status updates
    - ❖ Opportunity to correct/update applications



# ISSUES

- Harmonisation of professional standards
  - ❖ To facilitate cross-border mobility
- Strengthening of domestic processes and mechanisms
  - ❖ To give effect to mutual recognition
- Improved coordination between government, education providers, professional associations, industry and APEC
  - ❖ Government roles vary across APEC
  - ❖ Some governments involved in registration and licensing, others leave to industry to self-regulate

## IT'S MORE THAN THE “LOW-HANGING FRUIT”



- The easy stuff...
- ...But how about next steps...





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