



PRESS RELEASE

MIGRANT TRAINING – OTSR – MPA SKILLS

MPA Skills welcomes the push from the WA State Government to attract more skilled workers to Western Australia.

For many years, MPA Skills has delivered a variety of training and assessment programs for overseas plumbers and painters looking to work in Western Australia.

COVID has naturally impacted on the number of overseas workers allowed into Western Australia, which eventually led to a postponement of gap training and OTSR assessment.

MPA Skills has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with VETASSESS for access to our workshops and equipment to conduct practical and theory assessment on potential candidates. MPA Skills also delivers the gap training for overseas workers once they have undertaken the Offshore Technical Skills Record (OTSR) assessment with VETASSESS.

VETASSESS is approved by Trades Recognition Australia, a federal government organisation, to deliver OTSR in Western Australia. MPA Skills is also down the path of applying to deliver OTSR here in WA.

Once VETASSESS has conducted its OTSR assessment of a migrant worker, MPA Skills is approved to deliver any resulting gap training.

As reasonable people would understand, since the start of the pandemic, numbers enrolling in migrant gap training have understandably decreased. Despite this, and at extra cost to the business, MPA Skills has run four (4) migrant skills gap courses, with an average class size of five (5), to allow the individuals to get the course completed before their provisional licence expired, as the Plumbing Licensing Board (PLB) does not extend these more than the initial two-year period. The last one was due to run at the end of 2021, although working with the PLB and some migration agents, we put the word out that we would extend this timeframe until March this year. MPA Skills had a couple of enrolments that could not get into WA due to border closures at that time and fortunately the border restrictions were lifted just before the course and we had nine (9) enrolments for this.

Furthermore, due to the change of qualification, it was vital that MPA Skills picked up everyone whose OTSR was aligned to the outgoing qualification (CPC32413), as attendance on the course and a record of on-the-job working for a plumber is essential before we can issue the qualification aligned to the OTSR. No one is allowed to issue this qualification past January 2023 as that is the end of the teach out period.

VETASSESS at this time, **do not have the new plumbing qualification (CPC32420)** on their scope so anyone currently completing skills assessment would not get through the process

on the old qualification before it expires. MPA Skills has even made the exception of allowing one plumber to attend the block while waiting for his OTSR to be processed, which has just come through, to avoid him being impacted by the above.

MPA Skills fully intends to run Migrant Gap Training Courses next year for candidates presenting with an OTSR aligned to CPC32420 and has already had conversations with the State Government's Department of Training and Workforce Development migration services about providing some clarity around the Migrant Gap process.