



**Australian Security Industry
Association Limited**

*The peak body for
security professionals*

Submission to Productivity Commission Mutual Recognition Schemes Issue Paper.

The Australian Security Industry Association Limited (ASIAL) welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the Productivity Commission Mutual Recognition Schemes Issue Paper.

Background

ASIAL is the peak national body for the security industry representing 2,700 member organisations who account for approximately 85% of the industry in Australia.

ASIAL members provide a broad range of services to protect and safeguard the Australian community. These services include manpower security (guarding and patrols, aviation/maritime security, cash management, crowd control/event security), electronic security (access control, alarms, Biometrics, CCTV) and physical security (locks, fencing, barrier security).

ASIAL is a federally Registered Organisation of Employers under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and an Accredited Cabling Registrar under the Australian Communications Media Authority's *Cabling Provider Rules*.

ASIAL Position

In a changing security environment the role performed by the private security industry in safeguarding business, government and the community is growing rapidly.

Since 1996, ASIAL has advocated for the introduction of a uniform national system of regulatory control for the security industry, one which satisfies the requirements of harmonisation and mutual recognition between jurisdictions and supports portability.

In July 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to adopt a nationally-consistent approach to the regulation of the private security industry, focusing initially on the guarding sector of the industry, to improve the probity, competence and skills of security personnel and the mobility of security industry licences across jurisdictions. COAG asked the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management, in consultation with the Security Industry Regulators Forum, to undertake further work on minimum regulatory standards for the technical sector of the industry by mid 2009, as well as proposals for a possible national system for security industry licensing by mid 2010.

Whilst there has been some progress, a national licensing system for the security industry appears to be no closer to realisation. The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) provides an mechanism for licensed security personnel to work in other jurisdictions. The efficacy of this approach is reliant on state/territory jurisdictions taking a uniform and consistent national approach, to avoid any disparity in standards. Whilst supportive of the MRA approach to occupations, ASIAL strongly believes that this should not come at the expense of quality/competency.



