

# Further reform to licensing in occupational areas



# What has COAG decided?

## National Licensing System

- National licence for the relevant trade
- Single cooperative national legislation
- National governance arrangements
  - Standards setting and policy determination
  - Streamlining/rationalising licensing
- Transitional arrangements to deem current licence holders across as appropriate
- National public register of licensees
- Intergovernmental Agreement to be developed by December 2008

# National Licensing System

- 7 initial occupation areas
  - air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics
  - building
  - electrical
  - land transport (passenger vehicle drivers, dangerous goods)
  - maritime
  - plumbing (including gasfitters)
  - property agents
- Can be expanded to other occupations

# Why these reforms?

- Part of a parcel of COAG reforms to achieve a seamless national economy
  - Boost productivity and workforce mobility
  - Increase competitiveness in global economy
  - Easier to do business across Australia
  - Improved benefits for consumers

# Plumbing & gas fitting

- There are well over 130 plumbing and gas fitting licences across Australia
- Many in the plumbing industry have told us that the current system of mutual recognition is cumbersome

# What are the benefits?

- Reduces cost to business and consumers
- National consistency in consumer protection and public and occupational health & safety
- Assists workforce mobility
- Eliminates complexity of multiple licensing regimes
- Adopts best practice regulation
- Removes inconsistencies across borders
- Promotes public transparency

# The Intergovernmental Agreement

- Provides basic framework for new system
- Key components to cover
  - Objectives and licensing principles
  - Legislative approach
  - Governance, structure and functions
  - Consultative mechanisms
  - Transitional arrangements

# Objectives of the national licensing system

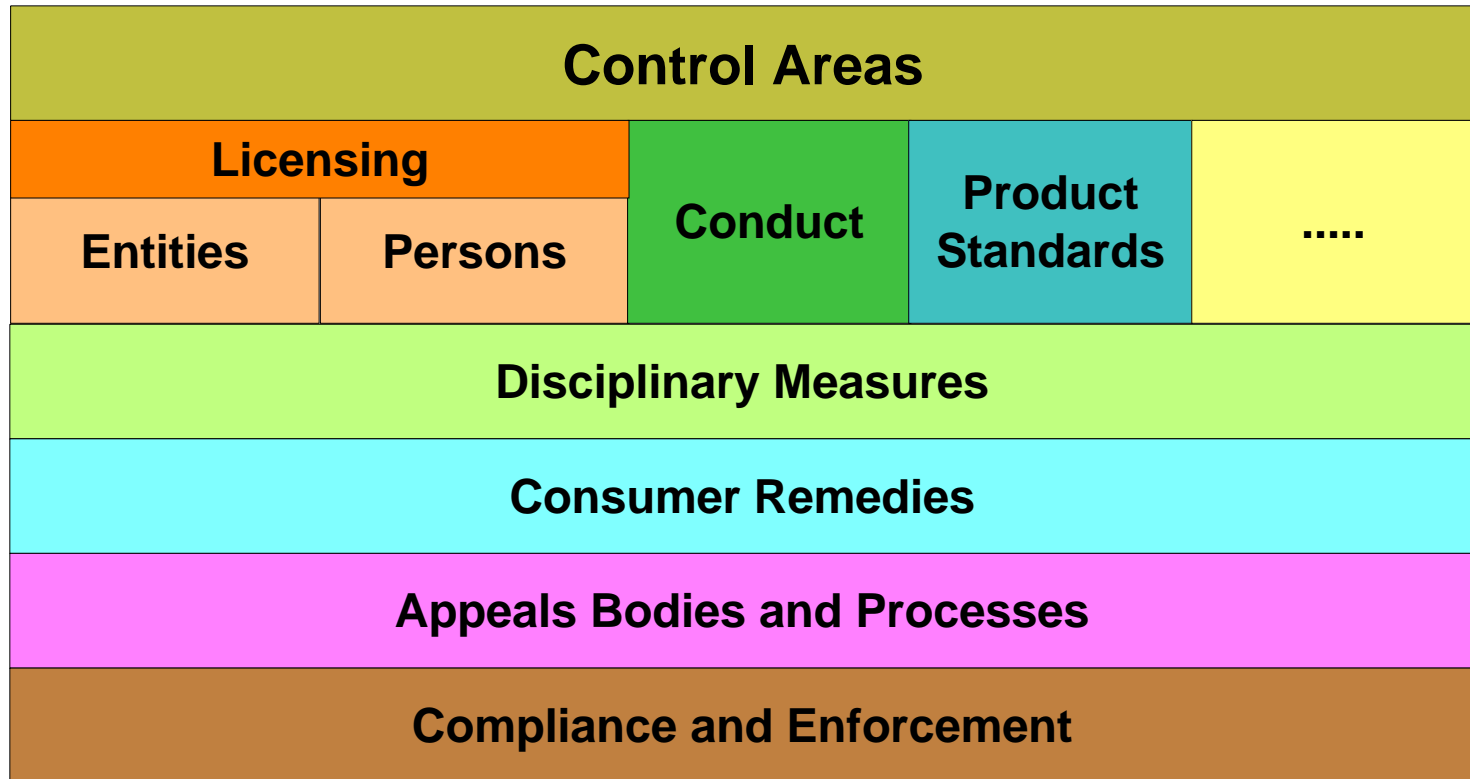
- Allow licensees to operate in all jurisdictions
- Support consumer protection and public health and safety through licensees skills and knowledge
- Facilitate consistent skill base
- Effective coordination with jurisdictions
- Promote national consistency
- Flexibility for unique jurisdictional circumstances
- Public access to information about licensees

# Common elements of licensing regimes

- Policy
  - Policy making
  - Standards setting
  - Consistency
- Service delivery
  - Administration, compliance, enforcement
  - Complaints, remedies and appeals
  - Education – industry and consumers
  - Workforce capacity building

# Understanding Linkages

- What happens when licensing goes national?
- What needs to be dealt with by national system?



# National licensing models

- New national licensing body responsible for ( in all models)
  - licensing policy
  - standards setting and
  - licensing consistency
- Model one licences issued by, and licence disciplinary action undertaken by state and territory branches of the national body
- Model two uses existing state and territory regulatory structures to administer the national licence

# What happens now?

- Develop framework Intergovernmental Agreement for COAG
- For further information contact the COAG Skills Recognition Taskforce at [info@Coagskillstaskforce.gov.au](mailto:info@Coagskillstaskforce.gov.au)

# What happens after the Intergovernmental Agreement?

- Detail of administration and enforcement arrangements
- Drafting and passing of legislation
- Detailed design and implementation work by working groups in each specified occupation
  - Licence structure design
  - Setting licence standards
- Ongoing stakeholder consultation