



# Migration Agents Instruments Review

## Theme 1 – A Qualified Industry

### English language requirements for the migration advice industry

For details, please refer to Chapter 1.2 of the Review Report.

#### Issue

Part of the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority's (the OMARA) role is to ensure that those who apply for registration as a migration agent meet specific criteria including knowledge, character, insurance, and English language requirements.

The English language requirements for registered migration agents (RMAs) are inconsistent with those of comparable occupations in Australia, and lower than the requirements for persons providing immigration assistance in Canada and New Zealand.

Anecdotal evidence provided by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) and some industry experts suggests there remains a deficiency in English language proficiency, which may hamper an RMA's ability to effectively represent their clients on complex matters.

To address these issues, the Department of Home Affairs has examined a range of potential reforms to strengthen the level of English language amongst RMAs and has put forward the following proposals.

#### Matters for public feedback

**We welcome the public's feedback on the following options for reform.**

**Submissions can be provided online using the [feedback page](#) by no later than 5pm AEST, 25 June 2021.**

- updating the Occupational Competency Standards for RMAs to include English language expectations, supported by the development of a new practice guide to educate RMAs. This approach would be consistent with comparable overseas frameworks and would provide RMAs with a clear guidance to ensure that their English language skills meet and remain at certain set standards.
- increasing the English language requirements for entry to the industry to 'proficient English' to align with the Department's English assessment model for relevant visa applicants (IELTS 7 or equivalent). This would promote better language skills amongst RMAs, protect consumers and raise industry standards.
- expanding the list of English language test providers that the OMARA would accept for registration as a migration agent, to include all test providers accepted by the Department for visa purposes.