Registration for engineers
International standards and global recognition

Engineers Australia is the peak body of the engineering profession. We are a member-based professional association with over 100,000 individual members. Established in 1919, Engineers Australia is a not-for-profit organisation, constituted by Royal Charter to advance the science and practice of engineering for the benefit of the community.
Introduction

Use of the title 'engineer' is largely unrestricted and has become a generic term. In the absence of regulation for engineering, anyone can claim to provide engineering services without the appropriate competencies, and with total disregard for standards. Engineers are central to:

- Civil Construction
- Defence Industry
- Water Infrastructure
- Manufacturing
- Transport
- Telecommunications
- Energy
- Healthcare & Scientific Research

Engineering services are therefore vital to Australia’s economic prosperity and social well-being. The community and business expect high standards from engineering practitioners and poor engineering work can pose serious risks for public health, safety and property.

The need for registration

Consumers, small businesses and even governments do not have the knowledge to assess the appropriate qualifications and experience of potential engineering service providers.

The greatest risk is from people attempting to undertake engineering work without adequate skills or competencies.

Risks include increased construction and rectification costs, litigation expenses, lost production and injury or death. Governments and companies cannot afford the associated loss of reputation.

Worryingly, deficiencies in work completed may not become apparent for many years after the work has been completed.

Benefits of a register for engineers:

- Reduced risks to public health, safety and welfare
- Legislative efficiency and cutting red tape
- Industry and consumer information
- Professional recognition
- International mobility and trade in engineering services.

Australia now has a national register of engineering practitioners whose competence and integrity has been assessed against a national benchmark standard of professionalism.
Because of the impact of professional engineering services in our communities, it appears unusual that professional engineers are not required to be registered universally in Australia. Certainly it is changing internationally with many developed countries, including the United States and Canada, now requiring registration. This can present a barrier to the mobility of Australian engineers in the global marketplace.

- Professor Elizabeth Taylor, Chair, Board of Professional Engineers Queensland, Queensland Government (2003-2011)
Working in QLD?

Are you registered? Registration is required for professional engineering services in QLD. The NER has been accredited as a process to assess competency requirements for RPEQ.