

15 March 2013



Australian Institute of Architects

Services Trade and Negotiations Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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Sent by Email to: services.negotiations@dfat.gov.au

Plurilateral services agreement negotiations in Geneva:

The Australian Institute of Architects provides its support by this letter for the need for Australia to play a leadership role in the upcoming negotiations regarding the development of a plurilateral services agreement in Geneva

The Institute notes the fact that Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data reflects that services represent around 80 per cent of the Australian economy by GVA and 85 per cent of employment, including 93 per cent of graduates.

Over the past decade, employment in services has grown by 2.3 million jobs compared with negative growth in manufacturing and agricultural jobs and minor growth in resources jobs.

Growth in trade and investment for Australia's services sector is critical to the nation's future prosperity and the Institute believes that the development of a Services Plurilateral Agreement offers the potential to be a highly significant catalyst to that growth.

The Institute urges the Australian Government to provide deep and well-resourced contributions to the services plurilateral process and encourages a strong related two-way communications process with local industry, which the Institute would be happy to play an active participatory role in.

Yours sincerely

Richard Barton RAIA
Company Secretary

