

WHO IS MASTER BUILDERS?

Some members of the public still phone our organisation in the belief that we are a government department, there to help them with a problem with their builder or house. Master Builders director Michael McLean clarifies the situation for us.

THE Master Builders Association was formed in 1898 to represent members engaged in the building and construction industry in Western Australia.

We are a not-for-profit, state-based organisation with our head office located in Havelock Street, West Perth.

Our association now comprises about 2000 members – over 30 per cent being based in regional WA. That is why seven of our 30 staff are employed across five different regional locations: Geraldton, Bunbury, Albany, Kalgoorlie and Esperance.

Our membership is diverse; ranging from international commercial builders to small, specialist subcontractors. Most of our members work primarily in the housing industry.

Our revenue is mainly derived from subscriptions, our property assets and our products and services to members and others.

Although we provide professional services like training, contracts, industrial relations, safety, technical and insurance in-house, we provide many other member services through our alliance partners. These include legal advice (Jackson McDonald), business advisory (RSM), vehicles (AHG), private health insurance (HBF), office products and equipment (Office Max), telecommunications (Telstra), fuel (Caltex), magazines (Crowther Blayne), suicide prevention (Mates in Construction), superannuation (Cbus), recruitment (Hays) and redundancy payments (Reddifund). Bankwest has been our principal partner for the past 11 years.

Like each of the other eight state and territory MBAs, our association is a member of the Master Builders Australia federation based in Canberra, close to Parliament House. This federation dates back to 1890 and now comprises over 32,000 members

across Australia.

Our core services are all about assisting our members with their risk management. In summary, these services can be categorised as:

- Providing accurate, timely and user-friendly information
- Representation and lobbying
- Promotional and marketing opportunities, including our annual metropolitan and regional housing excellence awards
- Relevant products and services
- Networking and strategic alliances.

Our association is governed by a 12-person board which meets monthly and is serviced by the executive director. Our national board meets on a quarterly basis in different capital cities and is chaired by the national president who is currently Dan Perkins from WA.

Our Housing and Construction Councils also meet on a monthly basis to develop policies on relevant and topical issues such as:

- Housing affordability
- Planning approvals processes
- Bushfire zones
- Housing indemnity insurance
- Reviews of legislation such as the OHS Act and Construction Contracts Act
- Industrial relations reforms (e.g. ABCC)
- Tax reform and red tape
- Apprenticeship training
- Non-conforming building products.

Members of the public can find out more about Master Builders from our website (www.mbawa.com), including our display homes website and 'Find a Member' referral service for your next project.

Should you be looking for a government department to answer your building-related enquiry, phone the Building Commission on 1300 489 099 or access its website www.commerce.wa.gov.au/building-commission.

