

Media Release

Builders welcome commitment to training

September 30, 2020

Master Builders welcomes today's election commitment from the Liberal Party to promote opportunities for young people in the building and construction sector.

"Apprentices are the key to a sustainable future workforce. Greater investment in skills, mentoring and training support is essential to satisfy the growing demand for construction and trade skills and to avoid the labour shortages seen in past growth cycles," executive director John Gelavis said.

"Targeted measures are required to encourage employers to take on young people and support them to increase the completion rates for building trade apprenticeships. This is important backing for the stimulus packages designed to enable the building industry to lead West Australian recovery.

"Master Builders WA requested through its COVID-19 Support Plan that the Construction Training Fund review the investment of additional funds to hosts and group training providers to keep apprentices in training and support subcontractors and builders. We were pleased by the CTF COVID Construction Package of \$24.4m announced in April and this new policy announcement by the Opposition would keep the focus on construction apprentices and trainees.

"Building and construction is an essential service to the West Australian economy and community and, with the strong pipeline of work planned for the sector, additional support measures will ensure industry is well positioned with a skilled workforce to meet the demands of a post COVID-19 recovery and achieve an increased to the number of skilled workers on construction sites.

"The building and construction industry is a \$24 billion sector, including more than 100,000 workers and 40,000 of the state's 220,000 small businesses. We also employ more than 40 per cent of WA's apprentices, so any measure to assist the building and construction industry to maintain a skilled workforce during the COVID-19 recovery is welcome.

"Master Builders would like to see all political aspirants at the upcoming state election present clear policies on construction apprenticeships and training, with a focus on diversity and inclusion."

For more information please contact: John Gelavis, Director – w: 9476 9800 m: 0428 884 392