



the voice of the industry

17 September 2012

MEDIA RELEASE

Cut to Joint Group Training Scheme for Apprentices an Unnecessary Hit on Residential Construction Industry

The Housing Industry Association (HIA) says that the axing of the *Joint Group Training Scheme* announced by the NSW Minister for Education last week is false economy when one considers the O'Farrell Government is relying on stimulating the housing industry to kick start the ailing NSW economy.

"Just when we have positive budgetary measures coming into play from October 1, 2012 the NSW Government has withdrawn support for the development of skills for the sector by axing the Joint Group Training Scheme from 2013. This will make it harder to attract the young people we so desperately need to bolster an ageing workforce and an industry in recession in this state," said David Bare, Executive Director HIA NSW.

HIA is calling on Minister Piccoli to reverse this decision and support the ongoing development of trade skills for young people in the housing industry.

"The approach to stimulating the housing sector must have aligned and complementary strategies and cutting support for apprentices is a retrograde step and sends all the wrong messages," Mr Bare added.

HIA is the leading industry association in the Australian residential building sector, supporting the businesses and interests of builders, contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, building professionals and business partners.

For further information please contact:

David Bare, HIA NSW Executive Director - 0418 924 127

Natalie Shymko, HIA NSW Manager, Government & Media Relations – 02 9978 3319