

28 September 2006

Workers Compensation Boost For Apprentices

Premier Maurice Iemma today announced that the NSW Government will exempt apprentices from Workers Compensation levies from 31 December this year.

The announcement will provide a significant boost for our industry, reduce costs and red tape involved in employing apprentices and boost the number of apprentices across NSW.

Removing Workers Compensation premiums for apprentices was a key component in HIA's "*Blueprint for a Housing Led Recovery*", presented to the NSW Government in April this year.

HIA has lobbied hard for the removal of the levy ever since a member survey several years ago revealed that a critical factor in the decision not to employ apprentices was the Workers Compensation expenses.

The NSW Government's decision will mean that our industry will now be more competitive with Victoria, where the levy was removed some years ago.

In addition to attracting more apprentices to our industry, the today's announcement will provide more options to the young people of NSW seeking a job, and in the longer term, going a long way to alleviating a chronic skills shortage.

On top of that the saving for businesses, which will be in the range of thousands up to tens of thousands of dollars, it will produce a surge of confidence through the entire industry.

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