

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
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Master Builders applauds moves to clean up drugs and crime in construction

Calls from Master Builders to broaden drug and alcohol testing on building sites have been vindicated today with the State Government moving to introduce mandatory testing on government sites.

Master Builders Association of Victoria CEO Radley de Silva welcomed the announcement as the government also moved to heighten onsite security measures.

“Workplace safety is a serious issue and anyone interested in the safety of construction workers should back this new policy,” Mr de Silva said.

“Ordinary drivers on our roads are randomly drug tested so why shouldn’t those working on dangerous construction sites amongst heavy machinery also be tested?”

Independent industry research shows that up to 24 per cent of Australian construction workers used illicit drugs and demand for industry based drug and alcohol rehabilitation services remains high.

“Drug testing has already happened on the Thiess M80 Ring Road project, despite the objections of the CFMEU and is occurring in the civil construction, aviation and transport industries to name only a few,” Mr de Silva said.

“The construction industry is not being singled out, it is simply following what is justifiably already the norm in many other high risk industries.

“If we can prevent even one death or serious injury on a Victorian construction site by stamping out drug and alcohol use, we will have made a lasting safety contribution.

“It’s time for the CFMEU to lift its head from the sand when it comes to drug and alcohol use in our sector. If it really cares about workplace safety, the union will support this testing.”

Mr de Silva said the drug and alcohol testing would go hand-in-hand with increased security following recent media reports alleging serious corruption, militant standover tactics and death threats exist in the building industry.

“Improved security measures that help weed out corruption or theft should be looked at,” Mr de Silva said.

“We have seen serious, disturbing allegations recently about bribes, corruption and fear of both underworld crime connections and outlaw motorcycle gangs in construction.

“Governments need to use every tool in their arsenals to take a wrecking ball to these types of practices and clean up the industry once and for all.”

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