

# media release



**MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY**

Master Builders Association of Victoria  
ABN: 38 004 255 654

**2/6/11**

## **Master Builders urges State Government to halt National Licensing Scheme**

The Master Builders Association of Victoria is calling on the State Government to urgently halt the National Licensing Scheme (NOLS) which it says will be costly, shrinking the pool of registered builders and tradesmen.

Association Executive Director Brian Welch said the scheme would unnecessarily increase the cost for tradesman and builders by between \$5000 and \$30,000 each, regardless of whether they wish to work interstate or not.

“The NOLS will create more problems than it solves and will encourage an erosion of compliance as more builders and tradesman abandon registration and licensing,” Mr Welch said.

“Furthermore, there will be a loss of older, skilled builders and tradesman who will refuse to go back to school.

“There will also be a new and higher level of legal risk for builders and tradesman, with fines up to \$250,000.

“We strongly object to the referral of the power to determine the registrations requirements to a national body.

“This inefficient and unnecessary system would also cause an increase in Owner Builders activity – Victoria already has the highest rate of Owner Builders in Australia at about 24 per cent.

The recent Report of the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislations and Statutes Review in Western Australia was scathing of the NOLS, describing it as ‘skeletal’ and ‘adding another layer of bureaucracy and increased costs.’ The Western Australian Government is now reconsidering the enabling legislation.

The Master Builders has written to Premier Baillieu outlining our concerns about NOLS. The letter urged on the government to follow Western Australia’s lead and reconsider this nonsense legislation or risk losing a wave of skilled workers from the already depleted building industry.

### **Media enquiries:**

Brian Welch, Executive Director, 0411 501 075

Laura Luvara, Media Adviser, 0466 777 059 [lluvara@mbav.com.au](mailto:lluvara@mbav.com.au)