

Under Embargo until 10.00 am Thursday, 30 September

30 September 2010

## HIA Builds the Future for Young Tradespeople

The Housing Industry Association (HIA), the voice of Australia's residential building industry, in partnership with JELD-WEN and supported by Stratco, are proud to launch the *Build Your Future* Program today.

The program will assist apprentices to make the transition from apprenticeship to sole contractor, and will encourage apprentices and young tradespeople to increase their qualifications and business skills to improve their future career prospects in the residential building industry.

HIA Managing Director, Shane Goodwin, said, "As the building industry faces an ever-increasing shortage of skilled workers, HIA is committed to supporting the training and professional needs of current and future generations of tradespeople to ensure they develop their skills for a bright future."

"We can never underestimate the importance of fostering young Australians where the opportunity exists to become involved in business," said Nigel Lapping, CEO & Executive Vice President for JELD-WEN Australia. "Building and construction is the engine room of the economy and it is in everyone's best interest to ensure we have an ongoing supply of qualified tradesmen coming through the ranks," said Nigel.

*HIA Build Your Future* has introduced HIA Training Scholarships to help young people achieve their training goals, reach their full potential, and meet their professional development objectives. HIA and its valued partners will award full and partial HIA Training Scholarships across Australia to an aggregate value of \$200,000, with individual scholarships ranging up to \$6,500.

Scholarships are available to people currently employed in the residential building industry as an apprentice, employee or working as a contractor wanting to increase their skills and qualifications, typically 25 years old or younger. The deadline for this year's Scholarship Program is 30 November 2010.

The *HIA Build Your Future* program will also promote the timeliness to be skilling-up, training and developing career pathways in the building and construction industry. It will encourage young people to do more courses, gain more licences and qualifications, and as a result profit from the growth in the industry.

Current V8 Supercar Championship Leader James Courtney will attend the launch together with TV Builder and business entrepreneur Luke Van Dyck who has managed the transition from completing his apprenticeship to establish a successful custom home building business in and around the Sydney region. James and Luke will both draw on their own individual experiences and the challenges they have experienced along their different paths to success to encourage more young Australians reach their goals in the building industry.

"With an ageing workforce looking to scale back their role in the industry, it is important to provide up-and-coming generations with the skill, solid knowledge-base and industry encouragement to 'pick up the slack' which is vital if underlying housing demand is to be met.

Such challenges will be overcome in the future with key residential building industry initiatives such as the *HIA Build Your Future* program," said Shane Goodwin.

Further information about the *HIA Build Your Future Program* go to <http://hia.com.au/buildyourfuture/> and associated facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/buildyourfuture>

**Media contact: David Bare, HIA NSW Executive Director, 0418 924 127**

**NSW Apprentices contact: Wayne O'Brien, 02 9978 3333**



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