FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

the voice of the industry

MEDIA RELEASE

31 May 2012

HIA Welcomes $8000 First Home Bonus

HIA applauds the Treasurer's decision announced in today's budget to re-introduce the state $8000 first home buyers bonus for new residential construction.

The state bonus when added to the federal bonus of $7000 means that first home buyers entering the market in new residential construction will receive a one off bonus payment of $15 000. While welcoming the initiative HIA believes that there is still a need for the state government to seriously examine the excessive amount of stamp duty which home purchasers pay in South Australia. The new construction industry is suffering its largest down turn in over a decade and interest rate reductions alone will not assist the industry. Residential construction remains one of if not the main driver of the South Australian economy and a healthy residential sector is essential for employment and state services.

HIA remains concerned at the impact of the removal of payroll tax exemptions for apprentices but notes that the Minister has indicated that there will be relief for group apprentice schemes. These schemes contribute much of the "heavy lifting" in training the future workforce. HIA welcomes the spending on infrastructure at Evanston Park and the Park and Ride initiative at the Entertainment Centre.

HIA acknowledges that the budget included a number of tough measures which will impact upon working families but applauds this Treasurer's' efforts to commence the process of achieving a balanced budget after a number of years of spending over receipts.

For further information contact:

Robert Harding Regional Director HIA SA on 0408 084 768.