MEDIA RELEASE

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Skills Announcement Positive First Step

Today's announcement by Federal Minister Chris Evans, to target the building and construction industry with training and development assistance recognises the immediate and growing need for skills development to meet Australia's future demand for trades people.

"The residential building industry has long been the 'training kindergarden for trade skills development'. Supporting industry with assistance programs such as this to equip tens of thousands of workers to meet our future skills needs is a positive first step for the fund," said Nick Proud Executive Director – Industry Workforce Development.

"Placing immediate priority for the first $25 million tranche of the new $558 million Workforce Development Fund to facilitate training in the building and construction industry acknowledges a future pipeline of work flowing from a range of factors that have potential to draw trades people into demand," said Mr Proud.

"Australia's future housing needs are characterised by the current housing shortage. Underlying demographic demand is running at 174,000 dwellings per annum," said Mr Proud.

"Construction and building workers are amongst the shortlist of tradespeople that are being called upon to assist to meet a shortfall of 150,000 skilled workers by 2017 in Western Australia alone," said Mr Proud.

"In the longer term, an underlying demand for new homes, tight rental markets and attrition of baby boomer tradespeople all require a mix of options to encourage new trade apprenticeship starts, upskilling and industry sponsored migration," said Mr Proud.

For Further Information please contact:
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