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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

## **HIA Welcomes Support for Apprentices**

HIA Executive Director Cath Hart today welcomed the McGowan Government's announcement of a \$24.5m support package for construction sector apprentices and trainees.

"Today announcement of support for our hosts and apprentices puts some much-needed scaffolding around jobs in our industry as we face these unprecedented conditions," Ms Hart said.

"We also welcome today's recognition by the Premier and his Government of the crucial role WA's residential building industry plays in employment and training.

"The immediate one-off payments of \$2000 to hosts of apprentices and trainees, and the additional support payments over six months will come as a great relief to the 120,000 West Australians employed in construction.

"Like other parts of the economy, we face tough times.

"Because of the low levels of activity over the past five years, there was only a 13-week pipeline of home building projects in WA when the nation's economic "hibernation" began at the end of March.

"We're already several weeks into this so if this trend continues unchecked, by June all of the existing projects will be on site and there will be another wave of pressure on jobs in the sector, particularly for those who are training.

"We've described the challenging conditions ahead to the Government and I'm pleased they're responding."

The announcement provides \$10 million in immediate, one-off payments of \$2000 to employers of existing apprentices and trainees currently receiving CTF grants.

A second scheme will provide extra payments of \$250-\$500 a month, per apprentice or trainee (depending on their trade), for a period of six months.

Apprentices and trainees can also claim up to \$1,000 towards the costs of upskilling through relevant short courses.

For more details please contact HIA WA Executive Director Cath Hart on 0409680880.