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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 April 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

## **Sensible Guidelines Reopen Display Homes**

HIA WA Executive Director Cath Hart has welcomed Mark McGowan's announcement that social gathering restrictions have been eased in Western Australia, including for display homes.

"Today's announcement effectively re-opens the front door of WA's residential building sector," Ms Hart said.

"We understand that with opportunity comes responsibility, so we will be ensuring display homes adhere to guidelines to keep consumers and our workforce safe."

More than 120,000 West Australians are employed in construction-related jobs. Like all sectors, COVID-19 has put enormous pressure on the West Australian residential building industry.

"Display homes are the shopfront for home building but distancing requirements meant they have been closed other than by appointment," Ms Hart said.

"This has meant very few new home building projects were initiated over the past month - in fact, HIA's weekly survey of WA display home traffic saw visitor numbers plummet by more than 90 per cent from around 2500 in early March to fewer than 50 last weekend.

"That will translate into a trough in WA's residential building pipeline over the coming 12 months so we're also working on proposals to support the next stage of economic recovery.

"The McGowan Government is aware of our concerns and today's announcement reflects their responsiveness to industry and recognises the important role construction plays in job creation and training for Western Australians - we very much appreciate this."

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