

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## HIA welcomes accelerated pathway for workers in WA

HIA WA has welcomed the launch of the Construction Accelerated Apprenticeship Program, a WA government initiative that will provide a fast-tracked pathway for building and construction workers who want to upskill, HIA WA Executive Director Cath Hart said today.

The program, officially launched by Education and Training Minister Sue Ellery alongside Ms Hart at the Construction Training Fund headquarters this morning, is aimed at attracting local construction workers who don't currently possess any official trade qualifications.

"This program is a huge boost of confidence for our industry, especially given the current climate here in WA," Ms Hart said.

"It has been well documented that our state is currently experiencing a skills shortage – while this comes with the nature of a sudden surge in building activity, this Apprenticeship Program is a necessary step towards increasing our current workforce, while also looking to expand the future pipeline of skilled workers in WA.

"This program has come to fruition based on the combined efforts of a number of key industry bodies and I'm extremely pleased to see this outcome following the invaluable input from various members of the building and construction sector.

"In the past year alone we've seen the significant role our industry has played in terms of economic recovery both on a local and national level, and we want more workers to have opportunities to open themselves up to a diverse range of career pathways within the industry."

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