



6 October 2023

Attention: Jobs Tasmania

Via email: YouthJobsStrategy@jobstasmania.tas.gov.au

Youth Jobs Strategy

The HIA (Housing Industry Association) commends the government on its work around the development of a Youth Jobs Strategy (the ‘Strategy’) aimed at providing more accessible and connected support for young Tasmanians navigating the transition into work, further education or training.

We appreciate the opportunity to be consulted on the Strategy. At this time, it is not our intention to respond to all aspects of the Discussion Paper but to put forward an existing initiative (solution) that not only provides jobs for youth but addresses the chronic skills shortages that plague the construction industry at a time when we need to be supplying more homes.

The HIA is Australia’s only national industry association representing the interests of the residential building industry, including new home builders, renovators, trade contractors, land developers, related building professionals, and suppliers and manufacturers of building products. As the voice of the residential building industry, HIA represents a membership of 60,000 across Australia. HIA members are involved in land development, detached home building, home renovations, low & medium-density housing, high-rise apartment buildings and building product manufacturing. HIA members construct over 85 per cent of the nation’s new building stock.

Importantly, HIA is also heavily invested in attracting, retaining and upskilling workers in our industry. This includes the creation of pathways that lead to construction jobs with one of our principal programs, HIA youthBuild, providing Year 9 and 10 students with the opportunity to gain valuable skills and an authentic experience through curriculum aligned practical electives, industry placements and live projects. Many of these students have progressed into apprenticeships, traineeships or have found gainful employment in the building and construction industry.

HIA youthBuild has been operating successfully for over a decade. More recently, with the establishment of stronger partnerships between industry and schools, HIA has been able to increase participation and expand the program throughout the State to catholic, independent and government schools.

HIA believes the youthBuild model can greatly assist in informing the Strategy while it offers up an industry-government solution to get more youth into jobs where there are much greater prospects of a successful outcome.

HIA would be keen to discuss its youthBuild initiative further with government in the context of this consultation with a view to receiving further support to expand and enhance its reach and offerings.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comment at this initial stage. HIA would appreciate being consulted in relation to any further matters on the Strategy. If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact Stuart Collins on 0418 507 377 or s.collins@hia.com.au.

Yours sincerely

HOUSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart Collins".

Stuart Collins

Executive Director

Tasmania

Enc: HIA youthBuild Infosheet