



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NSW CERTIFIERS WARN NATIONAL RESPONSE TO INSURANCE CRISIS MUST NOT COME AT EXPENSE OF IMMEDIATE STATE ACTION**

The Association of Accredited Certifiers (AAC) has cautioned the NSW Government that developing a national response to the professional indemnity insurance crisis must not delay the urgently needed next steps to keep the NSW construction industry operating.

AAC represents NSW private Accredited Certifiers and Accredited Certifiers employed by local government.

AAC CEO, Jill Brookfield said: "The push by Federal Minister, Karen Andrews for a national response is welcome, but this should not delay further action from the NSW Government to fully address the insurance crisis.

"The NSW Government has only undertaken one small step in the longer journey to protect consumers, ensure the sustainability of the construction sector and to protect the livelihoods of Accredited Certifiers and design and construction professionals.

**"Accredited Certifiers are facing massive premium increases, in some cases more than 300 per cent, and an environment where insurers are completely pulling out of the market.**

**"A comprehensive, government backed insurance solution, accompanied by a system of financial support for building owners is urgently required, as has been put forward by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews.**

"This long running crisis is leaving the community exposed – if an immediate solution is not delivered, the NSW construction industry will grind to a halt.

"The NSW Government must introduce measures such as consumer redress and protection for Accredited Certifiers, otherwise all parties remain unprotected.

"The NSW Government needs to finish the job and provide a solution to protect consumers and ensure Accredited Certifiers in NSW have the same liability protections as their counterparts in local government and other jurisdictions.

"We also have to address the historic liability that Accredited Certifiers are still exposed to – this is vitally important."

The AAC CEO added that further reforms will be needed to address the skewed liability burden on Accredited Certifiers in the NSW construction industry.

**"We are calling for the accreditation of all persons involved in the design and construction process, not just Accredited Certifiers, as is the case now," she said**

"The accreditation by government of all persons involved in the design and construction process was always part of the original accreditation system.

"This critical part of the legislation has never been activated, nor mandated by government to the detriment of consumers, and its adoption, even at this late stage, will improve accountability and address the skewed liability burden facing Accredited Certifiers."

To find out more about the role of Accredited Certifiers and AAC, visit:

[www.accreditedcertifiers.com.au](http://www.accreditedcertifiers.com.au)

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