



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 19 July 2019

NSW CERTIFIERS WELCOME OUTCOMES OF BUILDING MINISTERS' FORUM AND ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT TO FAST-TRACK REFORMS

The Association of Accredited Certifiers (AAC) has welcomed the outcomes of this week's Building Ministers' Forum and has called on the NSW Government to fast-track reforms that improve accountability and address the Professional Indemnity insurance crisis.

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

AAC CEO, Jill Brookfield said the BMF meeting recognised the seriousness of the insurance crisis facing the industry and the need to improve accountability across the sector.

"The outcomes arrived at by the building ministers this week are consistent with a range of reforms AAC has been advocating for years," Ms Brookfield said.

"In order to better protect owners and residents, we need to improve accountability across the whole construction chain.

"We have been calling for the accreditation or registration of all persons involved in the design and construction process, not just Accredited Certifiers, as is the case now.

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

"It is a positive move that the BMF has endorsed this and we look forward to working with government on implementation."

Ms Brookfield also welcomed the BMF's focus on the PI insurance crisis plaguing the industry, but said action needed to be fast-tracked.

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

"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.

"We need a solution that protects consumers and ensures Accredited Certifiers in NSW have the same liability protections as their counterparts in local government and other jurisdictions."

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

www.accreditedcertifiers.com.au

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