

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **HOMEOWNERS AT RISK IF BUILDING AND DESIGN PRACTITIONERS AVOID INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The association representing Registered Certifiers in NSW is urging the NSW Government to ensure building and design practitioners are covered by an appropriate professional indemnity insurance regime.

In its submission to the Government's consultation on the draft *Design & Building Practitioners Regulation*, the Association of Australian Certifiers (AAC) argues that the under insurance of building practitioners poses significant and ongoing risks to homeowners.

AAC CEO, Jill Brookfield said it is vitally important that the final regulation ensures a robust insurance regime for those involved in the building and design of developments in NSW.

"It is crucial that all newly registered building and design practitioners will be covered by a robust insurance regime, which protects consumers if something goes wrong with a development," Ms Brookfield said.

"For far too long, these practitioners have been able to operate in NSW without being properly registered or covered by professional indemnity insurance which has exposed consumers.

"The regulation under development must ensure these practitioners are covered by the right level of professional indemnity insurance from the commencement of the regulation."

The AAC is of the view that the insurance requirements for these practitioners should at a minimum be the same as those for Registered Certifiers.

"Our view is that the current insurance requirements for Registered Certifiers are more onerous than what is required for the building and design practitioners in NSW and other Australian jurisdictions and this needs to be remedied," Ms Brookfield said.

"Until this change can be affected, the requirements for building and design practitioners in NSW must be the same as Registered Certifiers at a minimum.

"It is not logical that building practitioners working on the same projects as Registered Certifiers should have insurance requirements that are less robust than those applying to Registered Certifiers.

"The role of the builder and designer carries a far greater scope and responsibility than that of the Registered Certifier.

"If a practitioner on a project is under insured, this exposes the homeowner, the other design practitioners, the builder, and the Registered Certifier.

"We've seen the dreadful impact on homeowners, and the costs imposed on the community and government due to the current inadequate insurance coverage by building and design practitioners in NSW.

"It is vital that the final regulation addresses this problem which has plagued the industry for too long."

To find out more about the Association of Australian Certifiers, visit: [www.certifiers.net.au](http://www.certifiers.net.au)

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