

# HIA calls for builder ratings

THE Housing Industry Association (HIA) continues its push for a rating system which would make builders more accountable for their work.

The HIA is calling for the introduction of a builder rating system linked to risk-rated insurance premiums which reflect the previous performance and financial status of builders.

It believes the system should be publicly accountable through independent accreditation to ensure an appropriate level of consumer

confidence is developed.

The call follows recent claims that complaints against Victorian builders have jumped markedly since the introduction of new state building registration laws.

Regional Director of the HIA in Victoria, Carolyn Lloyd, said the Association was a very strong advocate of introducing builder rating and third party accreditation.

She said the HIA already used Home Owners Warranty insurance - the only insurance program with a monitoring capability - to rate and continually monitor builder insurance risks.

"There are clearly significant advantages for consumers in a system where insurance premiums are related to builder performance so that builders are reward-

ed for strong performance and consumers can make informed decisions about their builder based on their insurance rating," Ms Lloyd said.

"The HIA is committed to pursuing a standardised approach to builder registration based on uniform national criteria governing builder qualifications which are closely linked to builders' capital adequacy and financial and contractual performance as currently rated by insurers.

Ms Lloyd said the HIA was pushing hard for the introduction of such a system.

She said it could be used to rate builders who could be accredited by an appropriate third party agency such as the Australian Consumer and Competition Council.

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