

Productivity Commission – Inquiry on First Home Ownership



Metal Roofing Industry Association of Victoria Submission

January 2004

MRIAV

The Metal Roofing Industry of Victoria (MRIAV) is a conglomerate of member companies involved in pursuing the interests of the metal roofing industry association in the residential building market of Victoria and the community in general. The Association consists of manufacturers, suppliers, contractors and associates, and is currently forging links to promote the advancement of the industry. To this end, the MRIAV has recently joined forces with Victoria's largest employer Association, VECCI, offering joint initiatives between both organisations.

The MRIAV also has a clear charter for innovation, quality, safety and training as well as having a vested interest in housing affordability

Inquiry on First Home Ownership

The MRIAV notes the current Inquiry on First Home Ownership being conducted by the Productivity Commission and its objective to examine the affordability and availability of housing for first homebuyers. In particular, we note the following Terms of Reference:

- "Identify and analyse all components of the cost and price of housing, including new and existing housing for those endeavouring to become first home owners."

and

- a. "the effect of standards, specifications, approval and title requirements on costs and choice in new dwelling construction..."

The MRIAV believes that the manner in which the installation of metal roofing is regulated in Victoria whereby there is a requirement to be either a licenced or registered plumber, and the inconsistency of these regulations with both regulations in other States and the manner in which the installation of competing roofing materials (e.g. tiles) is regulated, adds substantially to the cost of building many houses in Victoria.

The MRIAV estimates that removing the monopoly afforded plumbers over the installation and repair of metal roofing products on residential dwellings will lead to considerable cost savings for first homebuyers. These cost savings are based on feedback from both MRIAV and HIA members

By having a specific roof fixing traineeship rather than the current plumbing industry regulations the increasing demand for steel roofing in Victoria will be able to be met by an increased supply capability from a new, larger roof-fixing stream filled with specialist metal roofers.