

MEDIA RELEASE



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MBA ACT Welcomes the Proposed Women in Construction Procurement Policy but Insists More Needs to be Done

The ACT Government is proposing a new Women in Construction Procurement Policy to establish procurement that prioritises contractors with gender equity strategies. This will be in an effort to support the commitments made through the ACT Women's Plan 2016-26.

Master Builders ACT CEO Michael Hopkins said, 'The ACT Government's focus on encouraging more women to the building and construction industry is a welcome move, however, using Government's procurement rules is only a first step.'

'The MBA has been running programs to encourage more women to join the industry for many years, and the recently completed Strathnairn Charity House demonstrated that we have amazing women working in the design, construction, and sales parts of our industry,' Mr Hopkins explained.

Mr Hopkins continued, 'The MBA's experience shows that attracting more women into the construction industry starts at school. It requires a change in attitude amongst career advisors and parents to support young girls into trade careers. It requires our Federal and Territory Governments to substantially increase funding for Vocational Education, including continued funding for pre-apprenticeship programs for women in construction.'

'With workforce shortages in the construction industry at critical levels, employers should do everything they can to attract women to the industry, and train and support them throughout their career,' Mr Hopkins said.

Mr Hopkins concluded, 'The MBA will encourage our members to contribute their ideas during the consultation period.'

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