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MEDIA RELEASE

## Housing Industry Welcomes Focus on Faulty Building Products

The Housing Industry Association (HIA), the voice of the residential building industry, today welcomed the moves by the Federal Government to focus attention on the problem of poor building product compliance, which is being increasingly experienced by builders and home owners.

Attending today's Industry Roundtable convened by the Hon. Bob Baldwin, Parliamentary Secretary for Industry, HIA put forward the concerns of home builders, manufacturers and product suppliers at the lack of coordination and oversight in relation to building product compliance.

"The supply chain for building products and materials should provide certainty to home builders and contractors that the products on the shelf are fit for purpose," said HIA building spokesperson, Kristin Brookfield.

"By ensuring that the products available for sale meet the right standards, the risk to builders, contractors and home owners can be minimised."

Ms Brookfield highlighted the problem with the current building product supply chain in Australia for both locally made and imported products, which leaves the decision about whether a product is good or bad in the hands of the last person standing – the consumer.

"This shouldn't be the case," said Ms Brookfield. "The responsibility for making sure products comply should rest with the manufacturers, suppliers and importers. They should be responsible for proving to the buyer that their products are fit for purpose and be willing to back up their products with ongoing after sales support."

"This is an increasing problem for the whole building industry, and no one wants to see a significant or catastrophic failure occur. It's time that all levels of government worked together to seriously address the issue."

"Mr Baldwin is to be congratulated on bringing this issue to the fore and we look forward to working with the government on ways to ensure that everyone in the supply chain shares responsibility and that ultimately consumers can have confidence in the homes we build."

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