



**The Hon Kevin Andrews MP
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Government committed to Reform in the Building and Construction Industry

The Government will provide funding of \$136.3 million over four years to achieve further structural and cultural reforms in the building and construction industry.

The package builds on the initiatives already undertaken by the Government in response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry.

The Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Kevin Andrews, described the funding as a very clear demonstration of the Government's commitment to reforming this industry.

“The Government is committed to establishing the rule of law in the industry and tackling head on the unlawful and inappropriate behaviour that continues to beset this industry. Establishing the rule of law is essential if the industry is to reach its economic potential to the benefit of those who work in the industry and Australians more generally,” said Mr Andrews.

The reform package will:

- extend the Building Industry Taskforce to 30 June 2005;
- establish the Australian Building and Construction Commission that will commence operations in 2005-06;
- establish the Federal Safety Commissioner that will commence operations in 2005-06; and
- provide funding to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to support continuing workplace reform in the industry.

“This Government will not stand still on reform. The industry does want change, but is ill-equipped to initiate and deliver it on its own. These funding measures will assist greatly in bringing much needed change to the industry.”

Mr Andrews also updated progress in implementing the Royal Commission's entire 212 recommendations. The update is available at www.workplace.gov.au/building

MEDIA inquiries: Felicity Dargan (Press Secretary) 0409 550 446.