



21 August 2018

Easy and Transparent Trading Consultation Paper
Regulatory Policy BRD
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RE: Item 1.6 – Removing 13 categories of home building licences

To whom it may concern

Master Painters & Decorators Australia are writing in response to the consultation paper recommendation for the deregulation of painting and decorating in NSW.

Question 11 – Do you support the removal of the above 13 licence categories? If not, which do you believe need to be retained and why?

Licensing in NSW for painting and decorating should be retained.

We **DO NOT** support the removal of painting and decorating as a licenced trade in NSW. A decision such as this would reflect badly across our industry nationally and would support the dumping down of our industry. The misnomer that “anyone can paint” is perpetuated by the continuous exposure to the uneducated through reality television and consumer marketing.

A great deal of emphasis is placed on painting and decorating as being the painting of homes, however it should be highlighted that this **qualified trade** is responsible for the painting of structures such as your state infrastructure and should not be considered or compared to the **occupations** that are included in the list of licenses to be removed.

The painting and decorating industry generates over 2.5 billion dollars in paint sales and produces in excess of 220 million litres of paint per annum, of which NSW would represent the largest percentage in this market place.

Painting and decorating is a qualified trade that has a four year apprenticeship program. Deregulation of the industry has the potential to wipe out this qualification. This has occurred in the United Kingdom in recent years and they are now returning to the pathway because they lost a decade of skill, quality and expertise.

Putting painting and decorating into the same category for deregulation as shower screen installers, fencing and backsplash installers is an indication that your department does not understand the technical voracity of the trade and are willing to expose the consumer to many risks. None greater than the exposure to:

- Lead
- Asbestos
- Highly toxic chemicals that are in many paint products
- Unscrupulous operators out to make a quick buck
- Poor quality workmanship
- Unwarranted work

An unregistered, unqualified painter does not have the knowledge and experience to deal with the health and safety aspects that are a daily occurrence of the painter and decorator? Examples being:

- Working at heights – Incorrect use and installation of scaffold and access equipment
- Lead removal, abatement and management
- Asbestos management
- Mixing of toxic materials
- Application of toxic materials
- Disposal of paint products (hazardous waste)

The responsibility of a painter and decorator is to protect and preserve all surfaces. Applying protective coatings to any surface can be a significant % of the cost of a build, the work carried out again cannot be compared to splash back installation, fencing and shower screen installation. The knock on effect of deregulation of our industry would result in:

- An increase in consumer complaints
- Encourage the misuse of specifications
- Put your waterways at risk due to poor work practises
- The demise of the apprenticeship system
- Greater risk of work site accident and injury
- Exposure of the consumer/client to poor performance
- Reduce the quality of the construction outcome

The ever changing advances in paint technologies and new products support the need to recognise and respect the value of a painter and decorator and protect the consumer when making an investment that is costly and requires expertise to complete adequately.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Dawes
Chief Executive Officer
MASTER PAINTERS & DECORATORS AUSTRALIA