

# NSW TASKFORCE UPDATE

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## Community housing sector a key partner in Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan (NBESP)

*Representatives from community housing organisations across the State recently attended a briefing on the NBESP to find out how the Plan will affect social housing.*

The briefing, held at the State Library in Sydney, featured guest speakers including the Minister for Housing, the Hon. David Borger, Housing NSW Director General Mike Allen, Housing NSW NBESP Coordinator Paul Vevers and Housing NSW Executive Director Leonie King. Attendees heard how the NBESP will support growth of the community housing sector, with the majority of properties built under the Plan being transferred to community housing providers.

“This program is not about the delivery of any type of housing anywhere. This program is about the delivery of sustainable housing into the future. We want to use this initiative to provide a really big step forward in the role which community housing plays in social housing provision. We are very much wanting the community housing sector to engage in the (plan),” said Paul Vevers speaking at the forum.

A copy of the presentation and questions and answers from the briefing can be found on the Housing NSW website [www.housing.nsw.gov.au](http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au)

## Building the Education Revolution (BER) Training Program

*The Kell & Rigby Institute in partnership with TAFE NSW – Northern Sydney Institute has designed a training program to prepare builders for the challenges that will be faced while delivering projects that are part of the BER program of works.*

The program comprises four short courses: BER Induction Course, BER Procedural Course focussing on the GC21 contract, BER Technical course for Foreman and BER Safety and Environment Course. These courses can be undertaken separately or together as a one week program. The program has been designed to prepare competent builders to carry out school works efficiently so that projects are successfully completed within timeframes and budgets.

These courses will teach builders the best way to work within the school community and effectively communicate with a range of school specific stakeholders. It includes approaches to successfully deal with the paperwork required as part of the GC21 Contract and provides practical ways for managing safety on a school site.

The training courses have been recognised by the BER Managing Contractors as a highly useful tool and have been endorsed by the Department of Commerce. It will assist with satisfying the contract requirement that builders must undertake training while carrying out the contract works.

The courses will be delivered by TAFE NSW – Northern Sydney Institute in various locations within the Sydney metropolitan region and at regional locations throughout NSW. For further information about the courses and to register your interest visit <http://bertraining.com.au/index.html> or phone 131 674.



## Housing NSW Builders' Register update

*370 builders responded to a recent call for expressions of interest to join Housing NSW's building register and help deliver 9,000 new social housing homes in NSW over the next 18 months.*

The Builders' Register will streamline and simplify the appointment of builders for Housing NSW projects. The revised panel of accredited builders will be operational from late June.

Housing NSW is employing Development and Project Managers to procure the building work under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan and may also use Managing Contractors to deliver some projects. These Project Managers will have access to the Register, providing builders on the register the opportunity to tender for projects.

## Brookfield Multiplex and the Salvation Army join forces in a socially inclusive employment initiative

*In an initiative announced this week, Brookfield Multiplex has joined forces with The Salvation Army Employment Plus (TSAEP) to ensure it leads the delivery of the Nation Building Primary Schools Capital Works Program in the Western Sydney Region with socially responsible employment practices.*

Building the Education Revolution will see Brookfield Multiplex manage the design and construction of infrastructure works to around 185 individual public schools within the Western Sydney region bounded by Parramatta, Blacktown, Penrith, Baulkham Hills, Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury.

TSAEP is working closely with Brookfield Multiplex and its suppliers and sub-contractors in a unique partnership to develop a range of employment programs which will ensure that those made redundant as a consequence of the economic downturn receive the maximum support and available job opportunities and that future opportunities are spread fairly across the spectrum of job seekers. The jobs resulting from Brookfield Multiplex's BER contract will not be limited to an experienced few, but will include opportunities for people who otherwise might not get the chance to enter the industry.

TSAEP will assist Brookfield Multiplex and their subcontractors to find suitable applicants for positions relating to BER, while also managing any necessary training.

For more information on this employment initiative visit the Brookfield Multiplex website at [www.brookfieldmultiplex.com](http://www.brookfieldmultiplex.com)



## Visit the Commonwealth Nation Building and Economic Stimulus website

[www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au](http://www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au) keeps Australians informed about the Australian economy and the Australian Government's early and decisive action to cushion the nation from the worst of the global financial recession.

To view previous Taskforce Updates visit <http://www.nsw.gov.au/nationbuildingtaskforce>

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