

# Local Matters

10 September 2004

Issue No. 4

## Recruiting Municipal Building Surveyors

The Building Commission in association with the MAV is addressing the shortage of qualified building surveyors in local government by seeking to attract recruits to new accredited training courses.

Some regional and rural councils are finding it particularly difficult to recruit municipal building surveyors, despite offering attractive remuneration packages.

The average age of the surveyors employed in local government is 45 years with few young people coming up through the ranks.

This has resulted from a lack of succession planning and the difficulty of attracting new, young entrants to the field. Only 1 per cent of surveyors are under the age of 25, and only 10 per cent are under the age of 35. There is also a low participation rate for women.

The situation has been compounded by the profession's relatively low profile, a lack of university building surveyor courses on offer and the migration of professionals and prospective students into other fields or educational streams.

It will take time to address this shortage. However the Building Commission is actively pursuing long term strategies in partnership with national and state peak bodies representing building surveyors, local government and a range of state administrations.

The Commission's campaign aims to improve the image of the profession targeting school leavers. The Commission has also entered into partnerships with the University of Melbourne and the Victoria University of Technology to provide graduate and undergraduate building surveyor courses.

By 2005 these courses will be complemented by a distance education program designed for rural and regional students at the Holmesglen Campus.

The Building Commission is working with other State administrations to set consistent national standards and professional development requirements to create more flexible employment opportunities

The former, rigid eight-year accreditation system is being streamlined to suit particular environments while maintaining the required levels of competency.

To help speed up the availability of suitably qualified graduates, the Building Commission has also adopted the MAV's "Go Grad" scheme. For councils experiencing recruitment difficulties in regional Victoria, this has already led to successful placements of graduates, including building surveyors, aiming for careers in the building industry.

Other Commission initiatives related to local government include development and distribution of guidelines for councillors on building services and best value reviews.

More information is available on the Building Commission website at:  
[www.buildingcommission.com.au](http://www.buildingcommission.com.au)



**CANDY BROAD MLC**  
Minister for Local Government

*Department for  
Victorian Communities*

