

MEDIA RELEASE

16 September 2009

Not been paid for building work? Resolve your payment disputes quickly and cheaply

Do you work in the Queensland building industry? Are you having trouble getting paid for building work you performed or goods or services you provided? Resolve your payment dispute quickly and cheaply!

If you are having trouble getting paid for work you have performed, the Queensland Building Services Authority (BSA) urges you to consider using the *Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004* (BCIPA).

"In the building industry, claims for payment by subcontractors or suppliers are often disputed by the superior contractor.

"This can result in payments being delayed for lengthy periods while the parties try to resolve their dispute," advised Building Services Authority general manager Ian Jennings.

"The BCIPA can assist contractors resolve these disputes through an adjudication process which allows payments to flow quickly down the contractual chain.

"The BCIPA adjudication system has achieved excellent results since its introduction in October 2004 and is proving to be quicker and cheaper than the court process," Mr Jennings said.

In 2008-09 999 adjudication applications for a value of more than \$234m were lodged. 754 adjudication decisions were released and the vast majority of claimants found entitled to receive part or all of the payment they claimed.

"I'm pleased to see contractors working in regional Queensland are increasingly using the BCIPA to recover payments."

25% of claims have been lodged by contractors working in regional Queensland and 75% of claims were lodged by contractors working in the south-east corner.

In 2008-09 110, or 11%, of adjudication applications were lodged in the Gold Coast area. The value of claims in the area was \$31.5m. The smallest claim in the area was for \$275 and the largest claim for \$16.1m.

Most of the claims in the area were made in the \$1 - \$4,000 range, with 41% of claimants receiving the full amount they claimed.

Mr Jennings said the BCIPA is changing the payment culture in the building industry.

"I urge all workers in the building and construction industry to consider using this helpful tool," he said.

For more information phone BSA on 1300 272 272 or visit www.bcipa.qld.gov.au.