BUILDING BY THE BOOK IN BENDIGO

Builders in Bendigo are overwhelmingly complying with construction and demolition laws.

This is according to the results of a week-long multi-regulator blitz on more than 120 domestic, commercial and industrial buildings as part of the launch of Build Aware.

Build Aware saw the Victorian Building Authority (VBA), WorkSafe Victoria, Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV), Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) and the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) work together for the first time to increase efficiency in building inspections and provide on-the-spot advice regarding questions about building laws.

The aim of the program is to create greater awareness of the importance of compliance in building, plumbing and construction and improved public awareness of the roles of the industry regulators.

VBA Director of Enquiries and Dispute Resolution Murray Smith says: “Overall the results were positive with the majority of construction sites inspected having no areas of high or significant non-compliance.

“Areas of concern were where non-compliance was identified and were either alterations or extensions to current buildings and the construction of swimming pools. Home owners are reminded that even during construction it is important that swimming pools are compliant with relevant laws,” says Mr Smith.

“In particular, temporary fencing which protects people from inadvertently falling into a pool which could cause injury if empty or drowning if there is water in it. The risk of backyard child drownings is ever present, so to prevent this type of tragedy it is vital pools are correctly fenced and compliant”

Bendigo was selected as the first destination for the program because it is a leading regional centre with a strong construction base.

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