

**Submission
No 26**

SKILL SHORTAGES IN NSW

Organisation: Australia ICOMOS Traditional Trades Working Group
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The Committee Manager
Committee on Economic Development
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir or Madam

INQUIRY INTO SKILL SHORTAGES IN NSW

Australia ICOMOS Inc. is the national chapter of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), an international non-government organisation primarily concerned with the philosophy, terminology, methodology and techniques of cultural heritage conservation. ICOMOS has national committees in some 100 countries with the headquarters in France. Members in these countries are formed into national committees and have the right to participate in the ICOMOS General Assemblies held every three years. Australia ICOMOS has over 500 members, including a wide range of professionals such as planners, historians, educators, curators, anthropologists, archaeologists, architects, interpretation specialists, conservators and engineers. See <http://australia.icomos.org/>

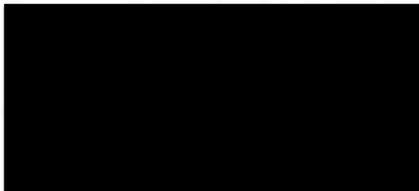
Australia ICOMOS has established a Traditional Trades Working Group in response to the potential loss of traditional building trade skills in Australia and makes the following submission to the Inquiry into Skill Shortages in NSW:

- In 2010 a Report into *Heritage Trades and Professional Training* by the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ) identified that "The current workforce in heritage trades is small and aging rapidly, with very few available opportunities to pass on their vast knowledge and skills" (<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/hcoanz/index.html>).
- The Vision Statement for the Working Group follows:
Australia ICOMOS' mission is to lead cultural heritage conservation in Australia by raising standards, encouraging debate and generating innovative ideas. The use of traditional trades is an essential part of achieving high quality conservation of culturally significant places in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 1999. Australia ICOMOS will work with the community; the construction industry and all the relevant partners to promote the sustainability culturally significant structures and landscape through the use of traditional construction and repair techniques (usually pre-1950).
- The current Strategy of the Working Group is:
Australia ICOMOS will work with relevant partners (e.g. the construction industry) to:
 1. *contribute to a national response to the promotion of traditional construction and repair trades for structures and for landscapes;*
 2. *identify the drivers & research the business case to facilitate traditional trades training and implementation (e.g. noting that currently over 50% of the construction industry involves work to existing building stock as opposed to new build);*
 3. *support initiatives from our partners that work towards the AI strategic outcomes for Traditional Trades (TT);*
 4. *explore ways to raise and monitor standards of conservation works on site, in particular through the articulation of suitable TT standards or charters which is a strength of Australia ICOMOS;*

5. *link existing skills and training in traditional trades to work opportunities for practitioners who are committed to continuing and improving the use of TT;*
 6. *highlight that reuse of existing building stock is more sustainable than developing new urban areas, new buildings and/or infrastructure;*
 7. *recognise that TT skills need to be maintained by a supply of traditional materials, and promote controlled salvage part of a sustainable solution;*
 8. *continue to promote training courses and research that assists AI members in understanding what is best practice for TT when used in the conservation of heritage places; and*
 9. *consider other ways in which Australia ICOMOS can contribute.*
- Australia ICOMOS is also aware of the following key study addressing the issue of a lack of traditional building trade skills in Australia :
Heritage Trade Training Scoping report by the Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council
[http://www.cpsisc.com.au/projects/Construct Projects/Heritage Trade Training Scoping Project](http://www.cpsisc.com.au/projects/Construct%20Projects/Heritage%20Trade%20Training%20Scoping%20Project)

Please contact me if you require further information or have any queries.

Yours sincerely



MARYKNAGGS

Coordinator Australia ICOMOS Traditional Trades Working Group

