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## Apprentice redundancy up

The latest instalment of the *Apprentice and Trainee Destinations Survey 2010* released today highlighted the elasticity of demand for apprentices, with redundancies reported to have tripled since the 2008 edition of the NCVER report due to the GFC.

The *Apprentice and Trainee Destinations survey 2010* identifies that for apprentices within the construction sector, redundancy was reported as the main reason (26.8 per cent) for failure to complete an apprenticeship.

HIA Executive Director – Industry Workforce Development Nick Proud, said “the survey indicates an employment drop off during a downturn and this outcome needs to be kept front of mind by government policy makers when considering incentives and initiatives to support apprenticeship employment opportunities for school leavers.

“At the present time the Apprentice Kickstart incentive, the Securing Australian Apprenticeships Recommencement Bonus and the Securing Australian Apprenticeships Completion Bonus are all coming to an end prior to the recognised employment window in the new year.

“Although there is a positive government reform agenda around apprentice trade training to improve commencements and reduce elasticity, there is a reality that incentives work,” he said.

The other important point raised by the survey is that satisfaction of both the apprentices completing and not completing has improved.

“Across the survey there are improvements in satisfaction in pay, type of work and skills learnt on job for both completers and non completers alike, which is good news.

“Every apprentice employed, retained and finishing their training today is vital to meeting future skills gaps that will arise from resources skills shortages and the winding down of an ageing workforce.

“Governments should also consider the gap between current skill shortages and the fundamental need to increase new housing supply. The Housing Supply Council estimates housing undersupply currently at over 202,000 in 2010 and projects that shortage to double over the next 10 years, confirming the need to support apprentice completions through incentives and mentoring assistance,” Mr Proud said.

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