



Our Ref: C2000/1208  
Contact Officer: Tania Mayrhofer  
Contact Phone: 02 6243 1070

**Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission**

20 September 2004

Mr Geoff Noble  
General Manager  
Victorian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation  
PO Box 42  
Holmesglen VIC 3148

PO Box 1199  
Dickson ACT 2602  
470 Northbourne Ave  
Dickson ACT 2602  
ph (02) 6243 1111  
fax (02) 6243 1199  
[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

Dear Mr Noble

**Application for revocation and substitution lodged by the Victorian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation for itself and on behalf of the Clay Brick and Paver Association of Victoria (A90887)**

I refer to the above application for revocation and substitution lodged with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) by the Victorian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation (VBBTF), for itself and on behalf of the Clay Brick Pavers Association of Victoria (CBPAV). Your application seeks authorisation to substitute levy arrangements authorised by the ACCC in December 2000 (A90738) which provide for VBBTF and CBPAV members to impose levies of \$1.00 per thousand clay bricks and 5c per metre of concrete blocks sold in Victoria, with identical arrangements, except for an increase in the levies to \$2.00 and 10c respectively.

As you are aware, since the release of the draft determination in respect of this matter on 21 April 2004, the ACCC has received submissions from two interested parties. These submissions have previously been forwarded to you. Through these submissions, a number of issues have been raised with the ACCC. Before making a final decision regarding your application, it would assist the Commission if you were able to provide the following additional information.

I note that the levy arrangements have been in place since 1 July 2003.

1. How much money was raised by the levies in the 2003/2004 financial year?
2. Were the levies collected on all clay bricks and concrete masonry blocks sold by VBBTF and CBPAV members in 2003/2004?

I also note that levy funds are collected by VBBTF and CBPAV members and remitted to the VBBTF on a monthly basis.

3. Can you provide details of levy funds remitted by each VBBTF and CBPAV member, each month, during the 2003/2004 financial year?



In addition, it is intended that levy funds collected by each VBBTF and CBPAV member be matched by members as voluntary industry contributions.

4. Can you provide details of voluntary industry contributions made during the 2003/2004 financial year by each VBBTF and CBPAV member?
5. Can you provide details of how funds raised, both through the levies, and through voluntary industry contributions, since 1 July 2003, have been distributed to date? For example, the level of funding provided to:
  - subsidise the training of bricklaying apprentices;
  - subsidise the employment cost of apprentice bricklayers to host employers;
  - group training companies;
  - support the Holmesglen TAFE bricklayer training centre;
  - promote bricklaying as a career option;
  - provide incentives for pre-apprenticeship training;
  - provide mature age apprentice support.
6. How many apprentices have been employed through the VBBTF bricklayer apprentice training scheme to date?

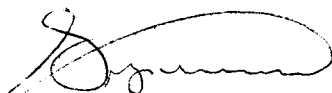
I note that while all employers of apprentices, and indeed, bricklayers who do not employ apprentices, are required to pay the levies, only host employers employing apprentices through group training companies and building group schemes are able to access those funds provided by the levies to host employers through apprentice wage support.

7. Is the VBBTF able to provide details of the number of apprentices currently employed in Victoria:
  - (a) through group training companies and building support schemes; and
  - (b) directly by bricklayers?
8. You may wish to comment on the concerns raised by some interested parties that this arrangement is unfair to bricklayers who employ apprentices directly rather than through a group training company or building group scheme. Do you consider there are means of addressing these concerns?

In order to expedite the Commission's consideration of your application, I ask that you provide responses to the above questions by 8 October 2004. Your response can be sent via email to [adjudication@accc.gov.au](mailto:adjudication@accc.gov.au), or you can fax your response to (02) 6243 1211.

This letter has been placed on the Commission's public register. The officer responsible for this matter is Tania Mayrhofer. She would be happy to assist you if you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter and can be contacted on (02) 6243 1070.

Yours sincerely



Scott Gregson  
Director  
Adjudication Branch