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## **NCC Updates Essential for Healthy, Equitable Communities**

### **Mould buildup, poor ventilation and accessibility improvements would be delayed under proposed government pause**

As the Government's economic roundtable kicks off, The Australian Institute of Architects warns that pausing National Construction Code (NCC) updates will delay critical improvements to indoor health, accessibility and equity in Australia's built environment.

Adam Haddow, National President of the Australian Institute of Architects, said regular NCC reviews are essential to address health issues like mould and poor ventilation, while ensuring buildings are accessible and inclusive for all Australians.

"Ignoring expert evidence in the built environment is akin to knowing what causes cancer but doing nothing about it. Changes to the NCC improve people's lives – they are essential to delivering better homes for people. A cheap house doesn't mean a cheap life," Mr Haddow said.

### **Health Outcomes at Risk**

The NCC's three-year review cycle enables continuous improvements to address human health outcomes, including preventing mould, ensuring proper ventilation, and enhancing accessibility.

"It's not just about the building's structure; it's about how we live in it," Mr Haddow said. "Updates allow us to create healthy spaces for everyone, addressing real issues that affect people's daily lives and wellbeing."

### **Community Wellbeing Cannot Wait**

Regular NCC reviews ensure Australia's building standards evolve to meet changing community needs and expectations around health, accessibility and social equity.

"Pausing improvements is a disingenuous response to our housing challenge. Health and wellbeing outcomes for our communities shouldn't be compromised. There are many other levers that should be pulled in our pursuit of housing affordability – they might be more difficult levers, but we shouldn't shy away from challenges by relegating our communities to unhealthy lives." Mr Haddow concluded. "The built environment shapes how we live – we must get it right."

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National President of the Australian Institute of Architects, Adam Haddow, is available for interview.

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