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## **Department of Building and Housing**

The government has decided to create a new Department of Building and Housing and relevant functions carried out by various government agencies (including the BIA) will be transferred to the new department - and in doing so create a one stop shop for industry and the public.

The reconfigured department will:

- carry out the present work of the Ministry of Housing;
- manage the administration of the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act 2002;
- be responsible for administration of the new Building Act (including absorbing the functions and employees of the Building Industry Authority) and the occupational licensing regulation associated with the building and housing sector;
- administer the Retirement Villages legislation currently administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Ministry of Economic Development;
- perform a range of other duties including regulation of housing standards, administration of the legislation around the fencing of swimming pools (currently with the Department of Internal Affairs), and Electrical Workers Licensing; and
- provide policy advice to Government in relation to the dispute resolution and regulatory responsibilities.

The new department is expected to be in place by end of November 2004, and Associate Commerce Minister Tamihere will be the Minister responsible for the new department.

## **BCITO meets with Minister Tamihere (New Building and Housing Minister)**

BCITO Board member (and ex Chair) David Gray and BCITO CEO Pieter Burghout met with Minister John Tamihere recently. It provided the BCITO with an excellent opportunity to highlight the headway the organisation has been making in terms of increased trainee numbers and ITO leadership, and gave the Minister some (hopefully) useful information as he becomes more involved in his new Ministerial role.

## **BCITO working with government agencies to keep industry up to date**

The BCITO recently worked with the Ministry of Economic Development and the Building Industry Authority to produce a special edition of the BCITO newsletter 'BC News'. Information was sent to all BCITO clients about proposed industry licensing categories and new timber treatment requirements.

An important part of what we do at the BCITO is to add value to the training process - we welcomed the opportunity to work with MED and the BIA on this special project, as the information provided by both organisations covered very topical and very important material.

The feedback we have received from our clients has been very positive and they appreciated both being given the opportunity to be part of the consultation process with licensing, and being kept up to date with regulatory developments around timber treatment.

## **Congratulations to the team who worked on the Ofafanua project in Auckland**

We would like to congratulate the team that moved mountains to provide a wonderful new home for the Ofafanua Family in Auckland. The project, led by dedicated Master Builders Rod Percival and Marty Van Der Burg, were assisted by an army of suppliers and workers – staff from the BCITO Northern team among them.

We want to thank our Auckland team who gave their time and shared their skills for this worthy cause.

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