

## ***Forecasting Skills and Building Capacity***

The average age of an Australian plumber is 42.

The shortage in skilled tradespeople and professionals is pushing construction costs well above inflation.

Consequently, the **skills shortage flows directly into higher housing costs and higher rents for small businesses.**

### **What is to be Done?**

The first step to improving industry capacity is to **forecast the demand for skilled tradespeople and professionals more accurately.**

The Construction Forecasting Council, which is totally funded by the private sector, already forecasts construction spending over a 10-year horizon.

The forecasts cover the residential, non residential and infrastructure sectors.

In Canada, the Construction Sector Council takes similar spending forecasts and converts them to forecasts of demand for trade and professional skills over a similar time-frame.

Australia desperately needs a similar service.

### **Forecasting Skills and Capacity Building – Recommendations:**

- First:** Commit to establishing a Skills Forecasting Council modelled on the Canadian Construction Sector Council.
- Second:** Develop a business case and budget for such a service.
- Third:** Establish a tri-partite working party to provide recommendations about the working model for such a forecasting service.

**The Voice of Leadership**