

Registered Residential Carpenter Pathway - Victoria

A practical reform proposal for safer, clearer and more affordable renovation delivery.

Simple explanation: We are asking Victoria to consider a registered pathway for experienced renovation carpenters, allowing them to legally carry out defined residential renovation work under clear limits, proper insurance and strong consumer safeguards.

The problem

Residential renovation work has changed significantly. Modern renovation projects can exceed current cost thresholds quickly, even when the work is practical, staged, carpentry-led and limited in scope.

This creates confusion for homeowners and experienced tradespeople. In many cases, highly experienced carpenters already help manage and deliver renovation work, but the current system does not provide a clear, practical registration pathway that reflects this reality.

The result is a regulatory gap: unclear homeowner choices, restricted experienced tradespeople, and unnecessary friction on smaller or staged renovation projects.

The proposed solution

Create a **Registered Residential Carpenter** pathway for experienced carpenters who meet strict eligibility, experience, insurance and compliance requirements.

This is not a proposal to replace registered builders or deregulate building work. It is a controlled, practical and consumer-protective pathway for defined residential renovation projects.

What the pathway could include

- Completed apprenticeship or recognised equivalent qualification
- Certificate III in Carpentry or recognised equivalent
- Minimum verified experience, such as 10+ or 20+ years
- Demonstrated residential renovation experience
- Defined project-value limits and insurance requirements
- Knowledge of permits, contracts, compliance and consumer obligations
- Portfolio evidence, references and possible assessment for higher registration levels

What the pathway would not include

- New home construction
- Multi-dwelling developments
- Major structural works beyond defined limits
- High-risk building work requiring full builder oversight
- Specialist licensed work outside carpentry scope
- Unqualified or inexperienced operators

Why this matters for homeowners

Victorian homeowners need renovation work to be easier to understand, safer to engage and more practical to access.

- Clearer choices and clearer responsibility
- Improved accountability and consumer confidence
- Reduced confusion around defined renovation work
- More practical and affordable project delivery
- Recognition of experienced renovation tradespeople

Consumer protection principle

Capability must be matched with responsibility.

Experienced carpenters should only undertake work that matches their qualification, experience, insurance and demonstrated competence. The stronger the project scope, the stronger the requirements should be.

Outcome sought

Constructive discussion with government, regulators, industry bodies, registered builders, insurers, carpenters and homeowners to explore a practical, limited and well-regulated pathway for defined residential renovation work.

This reform is not about lowering standards. It is about modernising standards so they reflect real renovation delivery, protect consumers, recognise experienced tradespeople and support a more practical housing system.

Carpenters for Housing Reform Victoria

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