

INDUSTRY NEWS



A bathroom with a wide shower access and easy-use drawer handles.

New HIA award has eye on the future

Gemma Nisbet

The Housing Industry Association has announced a new addition to this year's HIA Housing Awards program in the form of a Liveable Homes category.

The category will be included in the Perth, WA and regional housing awards and will highlight liveable, accessible homes which incorporate universal design principles.

"Liveable homes are homes of the future," said HIA WA executive director John Dastlik.

"They are easy to move around in, easy to use, are open plan and designed to maximise space in key areas of the home to ensure people of all ages and abilities can live in or visit in comfort."

Mr Dastlik said the criteria for entries in the category would include quality of workmanship, design effectiveness, visual appeal, innovation, environmental sustainability and market relevance as well as a priority focus on including universal design features which facilitate access by people with limited mobility. These include flush entries, wide

doorways and corridors, good access to a toilet and shower, and reinforced bathroom/toilet walls.

It joins existing categories for Liveable Kitchens and Bathrooms in the HIA Kitchens & Bathrooms Awards.

The new category is being supported by the Disability Service Commission, in line with its Liveable Homes initiative which was launched in 2011 in conjunction with various industry bodies including the HIA.

DSC director general Ron Chalmers said the new category had the potential to increase the number of liveable homes being built across WA.

"The new category reflects the aspirations of the commission's Count Me In vision; that all people live in welcoming communities that facilitate citizenship, friendship, mutual support and a fair go for everyone," he said.

The commission has also set up a Liveable Homes website, with information to assist architects, builders, designers and homeowners to incorporate universal design principles in their homes. For more information, see liveablehomes.net.au.



A liveable home should be easy to move around in.



This bathroom has a step-free shower and under-basin access.



A flush entry and wide doorway.

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