

## MASTER BUILDERS

**ROMINA DE SANTIS**, technical adviser at Master Builders WA, answers your questions about home building



## THE QUESTION

*I really want to buy an apartment. It is close to public transport, cafes, and no maintenance. Family and friends are encouraging me to look at land, building or established homes. Not only are these outside my budget and where I would like to live, I do not want to be maintaining a house and looking after a garden. With all the apartments being built now, there must be people that see things this way too. Your thoughts would be appreciated.*

## THE ANSWER

There are definitely many apartment buildings emerging in our town centres and our suburbs, but would you believe we are not providing enough for the demands of our population growth estimates for the next 20 years?

Our attitudes are changing, and we are embracing the big city mentality through the way we are planning and building our cities by creating entertainment and shopping precincts and town centres that buzz with activity, attracting people to the apartment living lifestyle.

You just need to look at other Australian capital cities and cities around the world to know apartment living is an important product to have available for many sectors of our population.

In WA, we have been spoilt with traditional large lots and freestanding homes. As a city, we need a variety of options from large lots, to villas, townhouses and apartments so families, couples and the aged can select the best option for their lifestyle and budget.

Apartments are great. You obviously have considered how you would like to spend your

time and money, and worked out apartment living is the right option for you. You are not alone. At a later stage, you may decide you prefer a suburban lifestyle; it will be there for you.

Like all real estate decisions, it is a personal choice, and if you have already decided apartment living is for you, then the other things to consider could be:

- Proximity to public transport.
- Schools and facilities like local library, shopping centre, parks nearby.
- Restrictions on pets.
- Security and parking.
- Technology and other building services included.
- Levies and other costs for the building.
- Facilities provided (i.e. pool, common entertainment areas for residents and guests).

**For more information about building, visit the Master Builders A-Z Building Information Directory at [www.mbawa.com](http://www.mbawa.com). If you have any questions about home building or purchase issues, email [romina@mbawa.com](mailto:romina@mbawa.com)**

# THANK YOU TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS

*This coming week is National Volunteer Week. Thousands of events will be held around the country to say thank you to the six million Australians who volunteer their time. Master Builders director Michael McLean reports on how volunteers help the building industry in WA.*

**T**HE theme for National Volunteer Week this year is 'Give a Little. Change a Lot'.

Like most industry associations and unions in Australia, Master Builders is a not-for-profit organisation.

This means our primary purpose is to assist our members and make the building industry more productive, safer and attractive to work in; compared to businesses whose primary motivation is to make a profit for their owners or shareholders.

Being a state-based and membership-based organisation, Master Builders relies on its members to provide us with a variety of services and support, such as:

- Serving on our board, councils and committees.
- Representing us at meetings with politicians, bureaucrats and kindred organisations.
- Inspecting and judging new homes and commercial buildings for our awards.
- Interviewing nominees for awards such as the Ric New Medal or apprentice awards.
- Travelling to regional areas and interstate to meet with members and others.
- Providing editorials for our Master Builder magazine.
- Representing our association at media interviews, on radio or on our TV program, *Home in WA*.
- Donating to designated charities such as Mates in Construction, or participating in charitable events such as our annual Ride Against Suicide.
- Delivering a lecture or training course to tertiary, TAFE or secondary students.
- Attending career expos to explain the various occupations a student could

pursue in the building industry.

- Providing expert evidence in a court or tribunal hearing or parliamentary inquiry.

The list goes on.

All of these tasks are carried out voluntarily and willingly by builders, specialist contractors and suppliers in our industry.

The knowledge and commitment of these volunteers has made the building industry a better and safer place.

Some members of our association are extremely generous in supporting a number of charities such as Telethon, the Variety Bash, Prostate Cancer Foundation, Charles Perkins Centre or Perron Institute.

Each of these ventures and others have raised considerable funds for a range of deserving charities.

Several of our members have been building charity homes over many years with the generous support of suppliers, specialist trades and land developers.

National Volunteer Week therefore provides us with a timely opportunity to thank our many volunteers whose dedication and generosity has not only made the building industry a better and safer place, but also helped many good causes along the way.

For more information about volunteering, visit [www.volunteeringwa.org.au](http://www.volunteeringwa.org.au) or the Volunteering Australia events calendar.

By the way, you may like to wear orange on Wednesday in recognition of the thousands of SES volunteers across Australia who give up their time to serve their communities in response to floods, storms and other emergencies.

