

FINANCIAL REVIEW



Property

Residential

Combustible cladding crisis

Dan O'Brien to head Cladding Safety Victoria

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Victoria has appointed Dan O'Brien, the chief executive of Incolink, a construction industry redundancy and insurance payment body, to head Cladding Safety Victoria, the agency that will oversee the state's \$600 million cladding rectification fund.



Dan O'Brien is Victoria's new cladding fixer-in-chief. Supplied

Mr O'Brien, a former GM for corporate affairs at Medibank, will this month start work at the new body set up to head the state's response to its large and so-far unquantified combustible cladding exposure that is making private apartments unsellable and devaluing thousands of apartments.

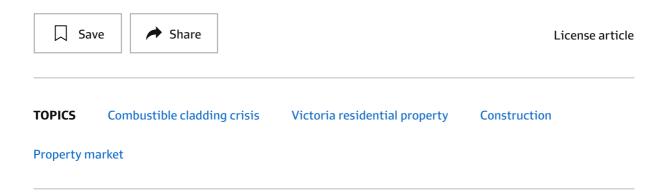
"Dan O'Brien is a highly experienced chief executive and has the proven skills to lead CSV as it carries out vital work to make Victorian buildings safe," Planning Minister Richard Wynne said.

"Dangerous cladding is an international problem and Victoria is leading the world in responding to it - establishing CSV to oversee landmark investment to fix hundreds of high-risk buildings across the State."

Mr O'Brien's appointment to the newly created role comes a day after the NSW government named David Chandler to take up a new role in that state of Building Commissioner. Both states are desperately trying to resolve with their current and growing problems of defects in, and combustible cladding on, residential buildings.

In its final report, the Victoria's cladding taskforce identified 1069 private buildings with combustible cladding, with more than 480 of them deemed to be extreme or high risk. The \$600 million fund aims to rectify cladding on 500 buildings.

Experts say the final rectification bill will be higher.



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