



MEDIA RELEASE

2 October 2008

The REIA welcomes the implementation of the First Home Savers Account and urges those aspiring to own their home to consider opening an account.

“The First Home Savers Account will provide a platform to increase the number of first home buyers with the demand they will create for housing providing an impetus to increase the amount of new housing stock in the market’ said REIA President Noel Dyett.

Data from the latest Deposit Power/REIA Housing Affordability Report showed that the total number of first home buyers in the market in the June quarter 2008 had decreased 17% when compared with the same period last year clearly showing that some impetus is needed.

The Government will contribute an extra 17% on top of funds deposited into the First Home Savers Account up to the value \$5,000, a potential contribution of \$850 per year. The accounts are available to anyone aged between 18 to 65 who has not previously owned a home, and contributions can be made by the account holder or another party.

‘This new initiative will help to promote a culture of saving among a new generation of Australians that will reduce their reliance on debt in the future’ said Mr Dyett.

In order to open an account, contact your preferred financial institution to enquire whether they will be offering the product, otherwise a list is available from the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (APRA) website at www.apra.gov.au.

‘Although not all banks or financial institutions are offering the account many are still open to the possibility when the credit crisis settles. The REIA would like to urge those institutions to consider offering this product to encourage home saving and provide home lending capital’ Mr Dyett concluded.

For comment or more information, contact:

Noel Dyett	REIA President	0418 532 145
Chris Fitzpatrick	REIA Deputy President	0412 574 401
Neil Fisher	REIA Chief Executive Officer	0412 637 550

PO Box 234
Deakin West ACT 2600
TELEPHONE 02 6282 4277
FACSIMILE 02 6285 2444
EMAIL reia@reia.com.au
WEB SITE www.reia.com.au