

Homes cash sets a record

RECORD numbers of home buyers took advantage of the first home owners' grant on offer in 2009.

Despite a recession and the global financial crisis, 53,730 Victorians used the government assistance to purchase or build their first home.

The previous record was 43,688 in 2001, Premier John Brumby said yesterday.

The western suburbs benefited most from the scheme. Point Cook, Werribee and Derrimut each received 1556 grants, the most in the state, followed by Hoppers Crossing and Tarneit.

Mr Brumby said the Victorian scheme was a "spectacular success" and achieved exactly what the Government had set out to do.

"And we particularly set out to help first home owners and to encourage them to buy new homes," he said.

Mr Brumby said the scheme helped to create 19,000 jobs in the building industry and had added \$463 million to the state economy.