

Group to push builder reform

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THOUSANDS of fed-up homeowners and tradespeople have banded together to create a "super group" demanding radical changes to consumer and builder rights.

The Building Industry Reform Group was formed in Melbourne on Monday.

It follows revelations in the *Sunday Herald Sun* on February 7 that damage created by dodgy builders is costing Victorians more than \$100 million annually to repair.

Many angry homeowners and reputable builders want reform of the state's builders' warranty insurance laws.

BIRG will lobby governments "demanding plain-English contracts", binding dispute resolution and "tangible consumer protection from cowboys", Builders Collective of Australia's Phil Dwyer said.

"We are all concerned the overall industry has had no reform for the past 10 years and has fallen into ill-repute," he said.

"We want to make people accountable and stamp out cowboy traders."