

# NOT ENOUGH | Approvals rise 17.2pc

# Shortfall in houses

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DESPITE South Australia outperforming other states in the national November building approval figures, industry groups say the rise will have little effect on Adelaide's housing squeeze.

Figures released yesterday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show building approvals rose by 17.2 per cent in SA for the month, to 963 dwellings, just behind WA

which recorded an increase of 18.5 per cent.

Nationally, approvals rose by 4.1 per cent in November to a level of 12,739 – still 0.4 per cent lower than in November, 2005.

Housing Industry Association regional director Robert Harding said, while the jump was welcome, it followed months of poor figures for approvals in SA.

“The simple maths is the industry needs to approve

around 900 dwellings each month to house South Australia's growing population,” Mr Harding said.

“You have to look at this rise in context and understand that has come after four or five months of fairly negative figures.

“It's not like you can say we have turned a corner.”

Apart from significant rises in SA and WA, Victoria (with 7.7 per cent) and Tasmania (6.8 per cent) were the only

two other states or territories to experience an increase in approvals. Mr Harding said there was no explanation for the growth.

“There is nothing that really sticks out to explain it,” he said.

“It could be that there is a degree of confidence in SA that isn't evident in other states, except WA.

“Perhaps all the talk about the resources situation has lent a measure of confidence.” he said.