

### **Powdercoaters unite**

In April this year, 14 of the country's major powdercoating plants joined forces to become part of Qualicoat, a new industry association and accreditation system.

Alspec, Architectural Window Systems, Australian Aluminium Finishing, Bradnams, Capral, Trend, Vantage and Verticote have banded together with powder suppliers Akzo Nobel, Dulux and Jotun under the Qualicoat banner.

Bill Wyllie, Qualicoat president, says: 'It is estimated that Qualicoat now represents upwards of 65 per cent of the Australian market. This figure is increasing rapidly as architects, designers, facility managers, urban planners and builders recognise the benefits of specifying powdercoated aluminium to the Qualicoat standard. Quality issues of some imported products and the changing environment are just two of the many reasons why third party accreditation is vital to the growth of the industry.'

The system compounds the existing quality requirements of the major powder suppliers, so fabricators and architects who specify Qualicoat are protected by two levels of assurance. This means that the powder and the application of powder are covered by a seven-year warranty. Qualicoat members are also independently audited for compliance to Australian Standards. Qualicoat is endorsed by associations such as the Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing, Australian Window Association and the Australian Aluminium Council.