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# Sky's the limit for Five Dock glass business

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A YOUNG Abbotsford man had a dream more than 30 years ago to brighten up Aussie homes and buildings.

He transformed a raw piece of material into a multi-million dollar enterprise.

Michael Bonello has since brought his skylights to the forefront of the building industry and into countless homes.

"At age 22 my employer gave me some raw material and asked me to try and make a skylight and at this time, skylights were not common in Australia and most had to be custom-built and installed with a lack of knowledge," Mr Bonello said.

Despite little support from his employer, Mr Bonello saw the potential in his product and

started Skydome in 1976.

He operated from his house in Abbotsford with his kitchen serving as a showroom and his garage as an assembly area.

"Then in 1979 I bought a factory in Five Dock and that's where we still are today," he said.

Before his bright idea, Mr Bonello said Australian homes and buildings were a lot darker.

"If you look at the architecture in Sydney and Melbourne, windows are very small and there is a lack of light and the only way of letting light in is via a skylight," he said.

"But sky lights are now commonly used in most western countries and are slowly emerging in Asian markets."

Mr Bonello, who is also the marketing chairman for the Skylight Industry Association, has since worked on massive projects including World Square in Sydney and The Superdome (now Acer Arena) at Sydney Olympic Park for the 2000 Olympic Games.

"We did all the glazing and all the awnings for World Square, which took about two years to complete, and we cut the glazing bars and designed the entire roof for the Olympic Stadium," Mr Bonello said.

Skydome today is considered the industry leader in its field and has sold more than 360,000 skylights world-wide.



Michael Bonello has been in business at Five Dock's Skydome for 33 years.