



ACOTREL RISK MANAGEMENT PTY LTD

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Productivity Commission

Dear Sir,

I wish to submit the following comment which is relevant to both the inquiry into 'building performance', and 'architects'.

Australian Standard AS/NZS 3905.12 Guide to ISO9000 for architectural and engineering design practices, is now available. Consumers should show preference to suppliers (contractors), who are certified to ISO9000, ISO 14000, AS4801.

I strongly disagree with the contention of IEAust that the term 'fit for purpose' cannot be defined. 'Fit for purpose' is defined in terms of stakeholder requirements. These interested parties include the client, the user, and the community.

I suggest that there is a need for Australian Standards to guide design of urban housing, as distinct from the rules suggested in Jeff Kennett's Victorian State Government code which clearly indicates 'anything goes'. Certainly aesthetics of urban housing is very loosely controlled. The practice of placing three units on a block normally used for a suburban house is very suspect.

I suggest the current project management practices of some major consultancies are often inadequate. These should be verified during third party certification audits. It is clearly unacceptable for these organisations to operate without ISO9000 certification, considering the high accident rate in the construction industry. There must be better coordination of design factors with workplace construction activities. Development of an industry code of practice for constructing buildings is imperative.

Best Regards,

Alan Cotterell