

ANTHONY BRAND A.M

CONSULTANT ARCHITECT

11 January 2000

The Director
Productivity Commission
Architects Enquiry
LB2, Collins Street East
Melbourne Victoria 8003

Dear Sir

Re: **DEREGULATION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION**

I write to protest strongly against the proposed deregulation of the Architectural profession and the possible deregistration of the Architects Board of Western Australia.

Any move to deregister the Architects Board would be just another step towards the increasing lack of protection to the unsuspecting public. Already with the advent of the Trades & Practices Act there has been a lessening of standards because of the unprincipled competitiveness between architects and designers with unrealistic reductions in fees. The forced reduction of fees means the reduction of available services and consequent reduction of standards and control because of the lessening time given as the result of lower fees. The public suffers because they get 'peanuts' when they pay for peanuts.

Deregulation will permit all and sundry to practice without necessary controls - through a governing body or act to ensure that the public is covered by trained and experienced designers with a reasonable level of ability. There would also be no controls in regard to ethics or standards.

Expenditure on a building is usually one of the largest sums of money that a person or organisation will expend - many go into debt to build. It is imperative that people who wish to safeguard their investment have available an identifiable standard of competence and performance upon which they can rely. This can only occur with standards set by affiliated governing bodies and government acts.

It is imperative for the safety of the unsuspecting public that the registration of architects is retained. It is also the only way that quality and competence can be assured in the field of building design and to a major extent in building construction.

Can you imagine the problems that would occur if you deregulated the medical profession?

Yours faithfully

(signature)

Anthony Brand.
AArch.P.T.C., LFR.A.I.A, M.I.A.M.A