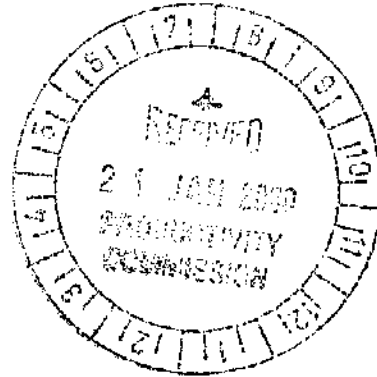




## **Architects Board of the Australian Capital Territory**

The Commissioner  
Productivity Commission  
Architects Inquiry  
LB2 Collins Street East  
MELBOURNE VIC



Dear Dr Byron

Thank you and your assistants for attending the meeting of the Architects Board of the Australian Capital Territory on 13 December 1999. Your presentation with regard to the inquiry was important to us and has helped in the preparation of our submission which follows:

### **PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY**

#### **Review of Legislation Regulating the Architectural Profession**

#### **Submission by the Architects Board of the Australian Capital Territory**

#### **SUPPORT FOR SUBMISSIONS BY ARCHITECTS ACCREDITATION COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AND THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS EXCEPT FOR INSURANCE**

The Board supports the submissions of December 1999 by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia Incorporated and of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects to the Productivity Commission Inquiry except for the issue of Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Board believes that being registered should not be dependent on being insured.

#### **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Architects Board of the Australian Capital Territory believes that the built environment is relatively permanent and is therefore of great importance to community amenity and a massive component of the community's capital investment. Good design and construction is therefore imperative.

#### **ARCHITECTS PROVIDE THE BEST PRE-BUILDING SERVICES**

Architects are best able to provide design, contract documentation and contract administration with regard to building projects because they undergo more extensive training and practical experience before they can offer their services to the community than other people claiming to offer an apparently similar service.

## EASY IDENTIFICATION OF ARCHITECTS

Developers of buildings large and small should be able easily to identify those people who are best qualified to provide the pre-building services they require. Registration of architects is essential to this end. By ensuring that architects have an appropriate level of education and experience, occurrence of failures is minimised, rather than having a system under which the failure is dealt with after the event.

## GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LEGISLATE

It is the role of government to legislate so that members of the public can readily distinguish between those who have the qualifications and experience to provide services such as those provided by architects, doctors, lawyers, plumbers, nurses, electricians and the like.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR A SMALL 'ISLAND' JURISDICTION

We favour a national statutory system of registration of architects because the Australian Capital Territory is a relatively small jurisdiction which would benefit from a national registration system in administrative terms. As the Territory is surrounded by New south Wales, virtually all architects practising here need to be registered in at least those two jurisdictions, an obligation which is both cumbersome and costly.

## AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTS IN OVERSEAS MARKETS

The recognition of Australian architects in overseas markets is largely due to their standard of education, skill and ability and the statutory system in place, which is seen to demonstrate public commitment to the maintenance of standards of education, entry and service in relation to the architectural profession. A national system of registration would be more readily recognised by overseas users than the existing State and Territory based system.

The proposed Architects Act of the ACT drafted in 1996 is enclosed as is the information requested from registrars regarding registrations, examinations and complaints.

We take this opportunity of wishing the Productivity Commission well in their endeavours with regard to the Inquiry into the review of legislation regarding the architectural profession.

Yours sincerely



Narelle Fogarty  
Registrar

18 January 2000