

AASA

Association of Architecture Schools of Australasia

9th June 2000

**Architects Inquiry
Productivity Commission
LB2, Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 8003**

Dear Professor Sloan and Dr Byron,

RE: Draft Report – Review of Legislation Regulating the Architectural Profession

The primary concern of the three schools of architecture in Victoria is that the deregulation of the Architects Acts will put at risk the ability of our schools to export educational services and attract international fee paying students. Further comments are included in the attachment.

Given the reduced Government funding, universities need to attract overseas students. Professionally oriented courses currently attract higher enrolments from overseas students. The income from those students helps to maintain the quality of education and makes a significant contribution to foreign income in both fees and the other expenses that the students have to meet.

Under the Architects' Acts, the accreditation of courses in Australia is widely accepted in Asian countries. The Architecture Boards in Asian countries will see the repeal of the Architects Acts as a weakening of the accreditation processes and an indication of a lack of Australian Government support for courses and the profession of architecture.

The draft report suggests that other accreditation mechanisms can be developed but the risk of market confusion should not be underestimated, particularly at this time.

To remove the current accreditation process will make Australian courses in architecture less attractive than those offered in other countries. The impact of that outcome will have a severe effect on the quality of architectural education for Australian students.

Yours faithfully



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