



## Domestic Builder

A person who supervises or erects Temporary Structures

There are some 20,000 current registered building practitioners in this State. I will table a graph that gives a breakdown on numbers in each category.

It is noted that an Architect is not deemed a registered building practitioner but if registered and in possession of the appropriate professional indemnity insurance cover, may use the title "building practitioner" or "registered building practitioner". The Board however, has no monitoring role to play with respect to these persons.

The assessment process for each category of practitioner is dictated by two distinct criteria. Firstly, the Building Regulations 1994, prescribes the qualifications and experience relative to each category. It should be noted however, that strict compliance with the prescribed qualification component does not automatically guarantee registration success.

Complimenting the formal qualification aspect is the requirement to be of good character and carry the prescribed insurance.

The second, and arguably more relevant test applied to the registration process, is the need to demonstrate an ability to meet the professional standards expected of that professional group. This is generally achieved through a formal interview with the applicant by the Board member for that category or, in the case of domestic builders, an externally appointed and trained workplace assessor. I will actually submit a chart that provides a breakdown on the outcomes of applications for registration as a commercial and domestic builder for a month.

As I have mentioned, another function of the Board is to monitor and supervise the conduct and ability to practice of registered practitioners. This is achieved through a random audit process (as the Commission has heard during the course of this inquiry) and also, via the investigation of specific complaints.

The Board conducts approximately 60 inquiries per annum the majority of which relate to the unprofessional conduct of the practitioner concerned. Most inquiries result from the complaint investigation process however, several do originate from matters that are uncovered during random audits.

The Board is able to impose penalties ranging from cancellation of registration to a reprimand in conjunction with a maximum fine of \$5000.

The Board would not be fundamentally opposed to the creation of a non statutory registration system for architects and architectural technicians. What the Board does oppose, and this view has been stated already at this inquiry, is the continued exclusion of architects from the Building Act in this State.

Any automatic acceptance of a register for architects and architectural technicians for registration purposes under the Building Act in Victoria would require a legislation change.