

21 December 1999

Productivity Commission
Architects Inquiry
LB2 Collins St East
Melbourne
VIC 80013

Dear Sir

RE: DEREGULATION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

As a registered and practising Architect I wish briefly to express my view that the registration of Architects should be maintained and that this should be administered by State boards in accordance with an Australian wide Act.

Whoever is ultimately entitled to design and administer the construction of buildings in Australia, there should at least be a standard by which a fully qualified Architect can be recognised by the public and subsequently a standard by which that Architect's performance can be monitored as required in the public interest.

It is only by a Government sponsored administrative structure, independent of the Architects' own professional organisations, that the public can be protected in the last resort.

Currently, the conditions under which an Architect can be registered go well beyond the simple completion of a tertiary course of study. Architects undergo a minimum of 5 years university training and 2 years of practical experience before application can be made to sit the registration exams, these must be passed before he or she can call themselves an Architect. The conditions of registration are focussed on the expectations placed upon the Architect in his dealings with the building industry and the general public at large. I believe these conditions should continue to be imposed and those who meet them should be easily identified.

In these days when the universal call is for certified Quality Assurance in every field, it is strange that there should be a suggestion of abandoning the traditional assurance of quality in the building design field. I respectfully ask that you approve the retention of Architect's registration.

Yours faithfully

(signature)

Chris Oakley
Registered Architect