

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION:
ARCHITECTS INQUIRY.

ATTENTION: Lisa Wall
SUBMISSION BY DAVID WALKER BUILDING DESIGNER.

AGENDA:

- Use of the word architectural
- Registration
- Competing in the market place on Government projects.

USE OF THE WORD ARCHITECTURAL;

I find it abhorrent that I personally cannot use the word architectural in my profession- I am qualified as an architectural draughtsman gaining a tertiary qualification in 1975. I prepare architectural drawings that is my profession it is amazing that one particular body feels it has the right to use the word architect architectural or any derivatives of the word.

Please understand I feel comfortable calling myself a building designer for that is what I do however I still prepare architectural drawings to achieve working drawings for Council and construction therefore surely we should all have the fight to advertise our profession as this will avoid any confusion for the consumer.

REGISTRATION:

This is a subject I feel passionate about we produce I believe a professional product in the preparation of architectural documentation, design, and compliance to the relevant authorities codes, continually I observe sub standard applications presented to council and accepted because they conform with the basic requirements set by council.

The preparation of design and drawings is a huge responsibility and should not be taken lightly dealing with clients lifestyles and budgets.

Why is it more important for a plumber, electrician etc to be licensed? yet the most fundamental and important item which they ail work from there is no requirement that the author be registered or licensed. If there were a licensing or registration system then the consumer and the authorities would know that the author of the documentation presented to council is qualified to do so which would result in limiting any ambiguous problems that may arise during construction.

COMPETITING IN THE MARKET:

We conduct a fully professional working design office employing staff in Penrith 70% of our work is multi unit housing and I would estimate conservatively we design and document up to 40% of the multi unit housing developments in the area. There are no architect's offices in Penrith, yet we are never given the opportunity to tender for the design and documentation of any local or state government housing developments in the area, It would appear there is a closed shop for architects only).

I believe it is totally wrong that we who provide a professional product and are competition in our pricing policy are omitted from this important form of housing. Should we be allowed to compete it would only help to strengthen local employment and reduce costs to the authority.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to address the commission and congratulate them on their unbiased approach they have taken.

Please understand I am concerned about my industry to the point that I have been prepared to come today to address the commission and lose a days productivity from my office.

(signature)

David Walker