

13 June 2000

Architects Inquiry
Productivity Commission
LB2, Collins Street East
Melbourne Vic 8003

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to express my qualified support for the Draft Report released on May 2, 2000. I believe that your suggestion more truly reflects what is already the case "out there" in the market place: namely that architects do not have a monopoly on provision of design services, and never have had.

However, I would like to suggest that some form of regulation is necessary, to underwrite minimum performance standards among all design professionals - architects or otherwise.

A registration scheme allowing those with a proven track record or level of competency to practice at certain levels of complexity, would provide the wider community with some yardstick to measure the suitability of each designer or architect for their intended project.

There has been some progress towards reaching agreement on competency standards between the Building Designers Association of Australia and the various "architects only" bodies, but has been thwarted by various means at the last minute on several occasions.

This process should be given an imperative to be completed by government, so that it can form the basis for universal registration.

State boundaries should therefore be abolished at the same time.

Dick Clarke, MBDA, AAHI
Envirostructure Projects Pty Ltd