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NSW

21 December 1999

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

### **REGULATION OF THE ARCHITECTS PROFESSION.**

Use of the term architect is limited to those who meet the legislative requirements under the various State Acts. Under reciprocal arrangements that operate in each State, an architect registered in any one State can be registered in any other State.

The situation is slightly more difficult for firms of incorporated architects, as each State imposes slightly different requirements, which ultimately, are irreconcilable.

Therefore, I support the establishment of consistent legislation across all Australian States for the registration of architects and architectural corporations. This legislation should require architects to register once, in order to practice in all States and Territories. Under the present arrangements, I have to register myself in each jurisdiction, pay an application fee, and pay each an annual administration fee as well. As for the firm of which I am managing director, I am still endeavouring to register it in all States and Territories. Currently I have been successful in all but three, and of those that remain, each have differing requirements.

A single national registration regime would reduce the administrative and cost burden on individuals and corporations, and encourage trade in architectural services, across States.

This in turn should lead to greater competition and increased efficiency in markets.

The only barrier to entry for anyone wishing to use the term architect, is to meet the educational and/or experience requirements under the Act.

Most of the built environment is produced without any input from an architect, so architects have no monopoly or oligopoly over its design.

What the word architect means for the consumer, is simply market information.

People engaging someone who holds themselves out to be an architect, do so in the knowledge that that person has attained a certain minimum level of training, and can distinguish that from anyone else.

For example, there are no limits on people holding themselves out to be for example "building designers." Indeed, the term could apply to people with little or no design experience, through to people who would be capable of seeking registration, but who perhaps, choose not to.

Architects, and the bodies that represent them, eg. the RAIA do not seek to restrain the public from choosing their source of building design. Architects rely on the quality of their work and their professionalism, embodied in their codes of conduct, to attract clients.

The costs of administration of the various Acts are partly funded by registered architects, who pay a fee each year to the various Boards. The cost of administration is therefore partly met by the profession itself.

Under the Acts, the various Boards can also take disciplinary action against architects who breach aspects of the Act. In this sense, they act to protect the public again from negligent performance.

Given the above, I believe that the various Acts work in the public interest, but would be made more efficient and effective if standardised.

Yours faithfully

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and Registered Architect, All States and Territories of Australia.