

7 January 2000

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

#### REGULATION OF THE ARCHITECTS PROFESSION.

The term architect should be limited to those who are appropriately academically qualified where practising as principals in their own right they should meet the legislative requirements of the State Acts applicable to them. I understand that reciprocal arrangements permit an architect registered in any one State to be in effect registered in any other State. If this is not the case then it should be.

The position for organisations and individuals is more complex, particularly when an organisation provides a wider range of products or services, of which architecture is but one, and not necessarily the predominant one. This difficulty for firms is exacerbated, as each State imposes slightly different requirements, which may not be able to be integrated into one set of company articles.

I therefore strongly agree with the establishment of consistent legislation across all Australian States for the registration of architects and architectural corporations. This legislation should require architects to register only once, in order to practice in all States and Territories. I was previously registered in NSW for many years, however, working as a Commonwealth employee and more recently as a project manager in private practice, I allowed my registration to lapse. It should be possible for me to reregister at any time and for that registration to apply nationally.

The only barrier to anyone wishing to use the term architect should be that they meet the educational and/or experience requirements under the State Act in the state where they primarily reside.

It is important to note that the vast majority of the built environment is produced without any input from an architect (and it shows). Architects clearly do not have the privileged position they enjoy for example in some parts of Europe in this regard. Nevertheless there should be a very clearly stated and understood difference between someone calling themselves a building designer or architectural draughtsman or the like, and someone who is entitled to call themselves an architect. The consumer should be able to be advised of the difference and make an appropriate and informed choice.

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 reputation 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. I suggest that the State Acts are generally in the public interest, however they would be far more efficient and effective if standardised.

Yours faithfully

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employed architect and project manager