

Gregory Ewart  
WA

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

To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: ARCHITECTS INQUIRY**

I wish to confirm my support of the view of the Architects Board of Western Australia that a registration system that recognises the qualifications, skills and experience of architects should be maintained. I believe this enables consumers and the public to identify building professionals suitable for a given role or project.

Given that there is no requirement in Australia that all buildings are to be designed by architects it is clear that the public currently enjoys the choice to employ an architect or other building designer. The proportion of works currently undertaken by building professionals other than registered architects is testimony to the fact that the public is more than willing to employ alternative professionals for given projects.

The registration of professionals with a common standard of expertise and experience is an assurance to the public that the professional they have the choice to employ has at least attained this recognised standard. The public are clearly not compromised by the fact that certain groups of professionals have adopted the title 'architect' as a means of defining this standard of qualification, training, experience and skill. By removing the definition of the 'architect' title through deregulation the public is less able to determine what it is that a particular building professional has to offer.

The only sector of the community disadvantaged by the definition of the title of 'architect' are those that do not meet the defined criteria but wish to trade on the reputation that architects have developed by maintaining this very criteria.

I also support the view that the appropriate model for a registration system is a Uniform Act across Australia administered by local State or Territory boards.

I urge you to carefully consider the importance of maintaining a regulated system.

Yours sincerely,

Gregory Ewart