



James L McKinnon

DIP ARCH, DIP TRP, Reg. ARCHITECT & TOWN PLANNER
WA

Productivity Commission
Architects Inquiry
LB2 Collins Street East
Melbourne VIC 8003

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am a registered architect and strongly support the view that it is paramount that registration of architects be retained, and that the most appropriate model is a Uniform Act across Australia, administered by local State Boards, or the Architects' Accreditation Council of Australia. It is essential that the public should be aware that when they are dealing with an architect that they are dealing with someone who is appropriately qualified by virtue of education, training and experience, and has the necessary competencies and resources.

I acknowledge that there are some who promote their services as equivalent to those of a properly qualified architect, who have never completed an accredited course of study and training. In most cases these people are draftspersons who have completed only part of the course of study and worked in an architect's office, but whose training and education do not cover the full range of services provided by an architect. In some cases their documentation of contracts and services are competent but in many cases that I have observed in my years of experience, they fall short, and someone down the line has to sort out the problems, which inevitably cost the client more money. This is not to say that those properly qualified do not make mistakes, but at least there is hanging over them the threat of deregistration for non-performance.

The Building Industry is becoming an ever more complex entity and it is paramount that there be an Australia wide **standard** which rules on the degree of competence of all who wish to call themselves architects, and the studies and training necessary to achieve it, which can discipline anyone who contravenes the standard in any way. This is best achieved by registration of architects and deregistration is the ultimate sanction against incompetence or malpractice. There is plenty of competition among the ranks of those so registered.

Yours faithfully

(signature)

James L. McKinnon
13th December 1999.