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28 June 2000

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Architects Inquiry  
Productivity Commission  
LB2, Collins St East  
Melbourne Vic. 8003

**RE: Submission: Registration of Building Design Professionals.**

One of the principal points of consensus at the recent NSW Premier's Forum on the Design of Residential Flat Buildings, was the need for the head of the design team to be suitably qualified, by allowing councils to prescribe the use of architects for more complex design tasks. This relies on an accreditation and registration system for design professionals, as is the case with many ancillary disciplines involved, such as the various specialist engineers etc. Accreditation is taken for granted in most areas of professional endeavour, the law, health, education etc. The well being of the community depends just as much on an efficient and quality built environment as it does on these other areas of endeavour.

Leichhardt Council processes some 2000 development applications per annum, a huge increase in recent times. In spite of increases in staff, and streamlining of the process, efficiency and suitable outcomes depend heavily on the quality of submissions, and the use of adequate skills in this regard. Many of the delays and negative outcomes are the result of inadequate skills being applied in the making of applications.

Several hundred architects practise in the inner-western suburbs of Sydney, mostly working for themselves or in small practices. There is a very high level of competition amongst the architects. There is no risk that architects will be able to act in non-competitive ways.

Accordingly the Council supports an accreditation and registration system for architects, and this aspect of the RAIA's submission to the Inquiry.

Yours faithfully,

Stuart McDonald  
**DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**