

# Michel Greenhalgh Architect

WA

Productivity Commission  
Architect's Inquiry  
LB2, Collins Street East  
Melbourne VIC 8003

11th December 1999

Dear Sir

Re: Deregulation of Architectural Profession

In response to your commission's request for submissions, I Michel Conley Greenhalgh, being a registered architect in Western Australia (Reg. No.1577) strongly support the views of the Architect's Board of Western Australia in that it is paramount that registration of Architects in Australia is retained and that the most appropriate model is a Uniform Act across Australia administered by local State or Territory boards.

Being an Architectural practice in regional Western Australia we regularly encounter the disastrous results of Clients not using qualified registered Architects for projects beyond the cottage industry. Instead they turn to the cheaper option of draftsmen and building designers to service their needs. All too often these service providers have little or no experience and training in more complex procurements and even less in the administration of building contracts. The Clients are being left to resolve issues which they believe should have been dealt with by their so called "agent".

As a lecturer at the local regional TAFE college I am well positioned to see the level of training being offered and the quality of product being produced in the graduating drafting students. When compared to architectural students graduating from five years of university there is an enormous difference in capability, knowledge, experience and achievement. This difference should be clearly identifiable to any purchaser of architectural services. At present it is. If the proposed deregulation proceeds the average Client would not know whether they were getting the right level of skill and expertise for their project. Hospitals, aquatic centres, high technology factories, multi-storey construction and cyclonic area construction, to name a few, are classic examples.

Ironically the TAFE are now considering providing drafting students the opportunity of only one year of tertiary education training with a certificate of qualification at the end of it. The average purchaser of architectural services would be none the wiser whether someone has five years training or only one, provided they had a certificate.

I believe it is imperative that the registration of architects is retained for the protection of the community as a whole. Deregulation could only lead to a larger plethora of charlatans in the industry than there already is.

Yours faithfully

(signature)

Michel Greenhaigh B.A., B.Arch.  
cc - Architects Board of WA