

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION
ARCHITECTS INQUIRY
LOCKED BAG 2, COLLINS ST
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 8003

SUBMISSION TO - "REVIEW OF LEGISLATION REGULATING THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION"

Dear Sir

I am most concerned that this inquiry seek to fully encompass those participating in the Architectural industry & for the industry to be opened up further to competition so as to progress the Architectural Industry into the future.

I express a plea that if legislation is to be changed that it free up the industry to enable competition forces to take their role so as not to inhibit those wishing to participate in the Architectural Industry.

I am a Building Designer with an Architectural Degree procured from a University.

I have worked in the Building Design area for 25 years & have run a small building design practice for 14 years.

In that time I have performed in the industry mainly in residential but also occasionally in the industrial, & commercial sphere. Over time I have become involved in more complex forms of work & have now just completed a full Design & Project Management on works to the value of \$1.7 million. This has entailed the consultation with client, developing the design through to council submission, tender stage & project management entailing assessment of the works in all areas including inspections, certification of progress payments and in depth analysis of variations.

My position is fairly typical of the scope of works that Building Designers have come to comfortably accommodate for many years now. The average age of a Building Designer is approx 46 years of age & therefore has a vast experience in problem solving & serving of client needs. Many Designers have emerged out of training in Architectural Offices when the work forces of Architectural Offices laid off workers during hard times.

Many designers have reached fulfillment in their careers by starting up small design businesses that have successfully served the Architectural industry for many years.

The industry is very encouraging of our participation & the Building Designers Association has vast Corporate Sponsorship & participates in many government think tanks & committees involving education, maintenance of Standards & continued education of its members in relation to industry matters. The Association also has Architects participating as members.

In becoming a member of the Building Designers Association we as members have been encouraged to improve our performance standards by abiding by a Code of Practice for Building Design & carrying out an organised "Professional Development" programme which has seen many designers go on to take out appropriate Professional Indemnity Insurance so as to protect our client base.

The last thing the industry needs is any attempt to limit the scope of works that Building Designers can take on. Architects & Building Designers should be working together to ensure a seamless overlapping of the tasks that both carry out & indeed should be working together to progress the industry.

Some designers will be involved in Design Services that service the complex industrial & commercial arena to participation in the housing sector in its many & varied forms.

However, occasionally we see verbal negatives from some Architects who have been moving behind the scenes to limit the scope of works that Building Designers can carry out. They have tried to set rules in place by Local Councils stating that "design of medium Density Housing must be carried out by a qualified Architect".

TAFE classes in Building Design could up until now only be taught by qualified Architects.

Our association has been able to have these clauses thrown out because it would be in contravention of the competition laws. Some Architects also continue to discredit Building Designers in articles & advertising whereby they infer that only Architects can give a quality standard of work. This is simply not true. Building Designers have a very high standard of workmanship with many now winning awards for not only housing but also commercial, industrial & government projects.

I feel that Architects should be encouraging the vast workforce of Building Designers to continue to update their qualifications in participating in the industry & encourage them to take on more complex tasks & training in the industry. We after all do much of the design work in the state of NSW. I'm sure it is no different in other states.

In conclusion, I request that Architects & Building Designers begin to work together in serving the needs of the Architectural Industry & that the Industry be structured so as to allow the market to perform & that government maintain a sensible legislative profile so as to encourage the participation of Building Designers to take on more complex forms of work as they work side by side with Architects.

That the industry strive to see itself in a fresh light & finally begin to realise that Building Designers have a right of participation in the Architectural marketplace & have done so now for some 30 years. That they be encouraged to take on more complex forms of work in Architectural Design & that their participation not be limited by legislation,
yours in Building Design & Architecture

.....
Micheal A Purtell