

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY

REVIEW OF LEGISLATION REGULATING THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION

from

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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PROJECT PROCUREMENT AND THE ROLE OF THE ARCHITECT

The Commission has received anecdotal evidence that the role of the architect has been eroded in project procurement by other providers taking over some of the architects' traditional responsibilities.

It is quite true that in recent decades a number of new project procurement methods have been introduced in which the architects' role as project or contract administrator have been undertaken by others.

However most knowledgeable clients, even when using non-traditional procurement methods, insist that the design and documentation services are provided by qualified architects. It is these services which determine the potential project asset value.

In 1999 the RAI Research Unit conducted a survey, the aim of which was "to measure the gap between how architects and clients think architects perform in terms of service quality and technical skills and to identify what clients want and expect from architects".

Part of the evidence from this survey reveals:

- 1 That on average the services of architects are provided under the following contractual arrangements

* Traditional services involving design, documentation, tender and contract administration	70.4%
* Partial service during construction	15.4%
* Design and construction service	6.3%
* Project management	3.4%
* Construction management	3.5%
* Other	1.0%

2 That clients use architects during construction for the following services

* Tendering and contract administration (traditional)	70.4%
* Inspection during construction only (instead of contract administration)	43.2%
* As part of a design and construction project team	46.0%
* In association with a Project Manager	38.5%
* In association with a Construction Manager	18.8%
* Novated to a builder	8.5%
* Other	1.4%

It can therefore be concluded that, whilst some projects are procured under arrangements in which parts of traditional architectural services are provided by others, the vast majority of projects utilise the full range of architectural services under traditional procurement arrangements.



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