

ARCHITECTS

EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION

BOARD

Level 6, 34-42 Manners Street

PO Box 11106, Wellington, New Zealand

Phone 64 4 801 8972. Fax 64-4-801 7010

16 December 1999

Productivity Commission
Architects Inquiry
LB2 Collins Street East
Melbourne VIC 8003
AUSTRALIA



Dear Commissioners

The Architects Education and Registration Board of New Zealand (AERB) appreciates the opportunity of being invited to make a submission in relation to your Review of Legislation Regulating the Architectural Profession in Australia.

This Board has had a Mutual Recognition Agreement in place with the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia since 1990. The agreement has worked well for architects from both countries allowing them to move freely between our countries knowing that, with reciprocal registration, they could automatically register and therefore continue to use the title "Architect" in the other country. One of the key factors in successfully concluding this agreement was the knowledge that registration of architects was backed by legislation in both countries.

More recently this agreement has been superseded in New Zealand by the 1996 Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Act, and in Australia by equivalent legislation. These statutes refer to occupations rather than professions.

From AERB's point of view it is imperative that legislation be retained for the registration of architects in Australia. If this is not the case it would be possible for non qualified Australian architectural designers (as distinct from Architects) to seek registration as architects in New Zealand on the basis of their occupation and we would not be at liberty to prevent them from gaining registration. This would be an unacceptable position to the AERB which is required to protect the public interest.

It is the Board's firm opinion that a National Act for the registration of architects in Australia would be the preferable outcome from the Commission.

In support of this position, it is fair to state, that most jurisdictions within the Asia/Pacific region have statutory registration regimes in place. Consistency of approach within the region is important.

I return a completed Appendix A advising that the Board wishes to continue receiving information about the inquiry.

Yours sincerely


John Patience
Chairman