

KORNWEIBEL ARMSTRONG
ARCHITECTS

December 19, 1999

Productivity Commission
Architects Inquiry
LB32 Collins St East
Melbourne VIC 8003

Fax: 03 9653 2302

RE: DEREGULATION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

As a registered architect in the State of Western Australia I am deeply concerned at the suggestion of deregulation of the architectural profession.

At a time when Australia is developing a highly regarded international reputation for its architectural profession, it is surprising that the idea of de-registration can be considered beneficial.

Australia has a significant culture of skilled architects and society is developing a greater awareness and value for the services of architects as distinct from other building design consultants.

Property developers advertise the use of architects in sales promotions, in some instances by name and the services of Australian architects are exported throughout Asia and even Europe.

The Architects Act does not restrict competition. Building design is conducted by many consultants available to the consumer, one of which is the architect.

Society currently has the ability to choose which design consultant they wish to employ, each offering varying degrees of quality. Architects offer a higher degree of quality which is known to the consumer because of standards of education and registration are in place, if the Architects Act is not maintained society will not be able to rely upon the standards it has understood the international profession of architecture to mean for centuries.

The only ones to gain from the deregulation of the architectural profession are those whose aspirations exceed their qualifications and the community at large will not be served.

Yours sincerely

Colin Armstrong

(signature)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA