

20/12/99

Productivity Commission
Architects Inquiry

Dear Michelle Cross / Margo Hone,

I would like to make a submission re the Architects Inquiry, as follows:

I believe it is important to introduce registration of all building design professionals, regardless of which particular qualification they may or may not hold. This should be based on their capabilities and continuing education above all else.

I do not support the narrow view of accepting only one form of tertiary qualification as a prerequisite to preparing designs and documentation for local or state government approvals, or for construction. People who design buildings (be they architects or building designers) should be judged on their merits. The Building Designers Association of NSW (with other states under the BDA of Aust), of which I am a member, pursue rigorous and compulsory Professional Development programs, which must be completed to a minimum standard to maintain full membership. This program covers all aspects of the architectural profession. This guarantees as far as possible a professional standard of work among members.

The alternative view also denies the practical reality that non-architects currently account for the majority of DAs lodged with councils around Australia. While the BDA agrees that not all this design work is defensible or desirable, it would be sheer economic madness to proclude all of these designers from practising.

I submit that all design practitioners who are members of a professional association or institution whose membership is contingent upon continuing education (PD) should be Registered to Practice Architectural Design.

Yours faithfully,

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