

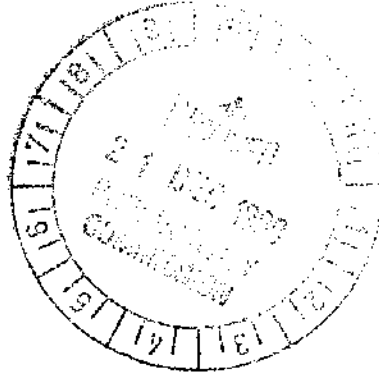


Hodge & Collard Architects

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17th December 1999

Productivity Commission
Architects Inquiry
LB2 Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003



Dear Sir,

RE: DEREGULATION OF THE PROFESSION

Our company is in favour of retaining the registration of Architects and we support the concept of uniform legislation for registration of architects across Australia administered by Local State or Territory Boards or by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects which is a National organisation.

There is already great confusion amongst the public as to the difference between a drafter, building designer and a registered or graduate Architect. The deregulation of the profession would only exacerbate this confusion.

It is imperative that only registered Architects can use the term 'Architect' for the protection of the public.

In most, if not all, States and Territories in Australia buildings can only be constructed by a registered Builder. 'Similarly' sanitary plumbing, electrical services and painting can only be undertaken by registered Tradesman. It therefore seems incongruous that an unqualified person can be responsible for the design of highly serviced and complex structures. However, this is another issue that will in the future be considered when the mediocrity of building design in Australia is eventually acknowledged by our civic leaders.

Architects fees have been investigated by the Australian Consumer Commission on a couple of occasions in recent years and the Commission has determined that they are extremely competitive.

Therefore, nothing of benefit to the public or the profession could be gained by deregulation.

Yours faithfully

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