

17th December, 1999

The Secretary
Productivity Commission
Architects Inquiry
LB2, Collins Street East
Melbourne VIC 8003

Dear Sir,

I write as a registered Architect of 35 years experience, a member of the Architects Board of Western Australia for over 20 years – Chairman of the Board for 3 years and a former Secretary of the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia.

I believe registration of Architects has been of benefit to the Community.

Architecture is a much misunderstood profession. I would estimate that four out of every five complaints about professional misconduct received by the Architects Board, in my period of membership, concerned persons who were not registered Architects or even graduate Architects.

I believe the public perception is that any person who is concerned with the design or supervision of buildings is an "Architect".

I fully support the continued registration of Architects as persons qualified to provide professional service to the public. This is particularly important where the public find it difficult to discern if they are dealing with an Architect.

By its nature, registration provides restraint on Architects. Natural justice should provide some benefits to those who chose to be registered and accept the constraints of practice that flow from registration.

I believe that it would be a benefit to the environment and the community if it was obligatory for projects above a certain cost level or environmentally sensitive to be under the design and direction of a Registered Architect.

Architect Act

My experience with AACA since its inception has convinced me that a uniform Architects Registration Act throughout the Commonwealth would be of lasting benefit.

This act would be best administered by local boards.

Registration without some restriction of practice is unfair and of a lesser value.

I wish you well in your deliberations.

Yours faithfully,

(signature)

MICHAEL BRODERICK

c.c. Brian Wright - Chairman of the Architects Board of Western Australia