

ATTENTION LISA WALL
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION
ARCHITECTS INQUIRY
LOCKED BAG 2, COLLINS ST
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 8003

**PRESENTATION TO PUBLIC HEARING ON THE :-
"REVIEW OF LEGISLATION REGULATING THE ARCHITECTURAL
PROFESSION"**

Dear Sir,

My name is Mike Purtell I am a Building Designer running a small Building Design Practice in the Blue Mountains. I have some 28 years experience working in the industry which includes a Tafe Certificate in Architectural Drafting, a Degree in B.Sc(Architecture) and a Certificate in Small Business Practice.

Firstly I would like to thank the Productivity Commission for being able to make a short appearance today.

I speak in strong support of the findings of the Draft Report into the Architectural profession & congratulate the Commission for their obvious deep and high quality research into the Architectural Industry.

The draft findings have important implications for our industry in that they endeavour to free up the market and finally give encouragement for Building Designers to be properly accepted alongside with Architects as active participants within the Architectural Industry.

We as Architectural Designers do practice facets of Architecture as recognised in the report and therefore there should be no limitation on the use of the term "Architectural" in the advertising of our skills as Architectural Designers.

Building Designers continue to develop a high level of skill within the working profession with many Designers now having many years experience operating small businesses in every field of the industry. Our testament is the continued demand by those seeking out our services.

The Building Designers Association now has its members participating in Professional Development Activities which continue to develop our skills in our various fields of endeavour.

I would now hope that Architects & Building Designers will now work together to facilitate the development of Professional Development programmes that are **inclusive** of those participating in the industry but that are not designed to restrict the work of many operating in the industry.

The area of Professional Development should become a critical player in the upgrade & revision of skills that Designers & Architects may need to take on board in the very near future. This area needs careful moulding. Again I emphasise that any attempt to limit scope of works by those practicing in the industry is backward & lacking imagination in designing a system to improve our industry.

Firstly there needs to be a working together of both the Building Designers Association & the Architects Institute to design a combined course for Professional Development that those working in the industry can participate in.

I can see the scenario where Universities & TAFEs would be lobbied by the Associations to come up with Courses to directly serve the needs of the Industry.

A structured course would be provided whereby courses are offered to Architects & Building Designers so they can upgrade their skills. However previous studies & experience must be properly recognised.

These courses must be designed so they can be taken without having to drop out of the industry to upgrade. Again I stress the need to look positively to enable a free market to operate & look to be inclusive of those within the industry.

For Example It is imperative that we now all design for Energy Efficiency in our designs.

UNSW now offers a 2 day course to a) purchase the software and b) attend 2 day course to learn the system & c) set up as a certified NATHURS Energy Rater in the market place. This is a course designed to directly help us as designers. Much more of this pattern needs to be set up by properly designed courses.

Such systems are efficient & hard hitting. They do not take up much time out of our work time but they actively serve to upgrade our skills.

We could introduce courses for a whole host of areas where participants in the industry can Professionally Develop.

My vision would be that we can then choose various paths in our Professional Development where by we are directly helped by formal education along the way to be better performers in the industry.

It is essential that the right to participate as designers in the market place be continued.

I work in the residential market because I choose to work there. That doesn't mean my skills in design are any the less than those working at the top end of the market.

Design challenges in the residential arena are possibly more challenging in many ways because of the often limited parameters to design within. However, if then, opportunity arises whereby we are invited to participate in a different area of work it is important that we have the right to be able to do so. It is then up to the designer to gear up to supply the skill required to operate in that new market.

This dynamic facility must remain for the health of the industry.

This way talented people are encouraged in their abilities. Artificial ceilings which say you must operate in this sphere alone should not be supported.

In conclusion, I feel it is imperative that the industry be freed up from restrictive legislation & practices but that Associations of Architects & Designers design streams for those seeking to improve their skills in the industry but that this be done with properly accredited systems which can accommodate all to participate in, if they so wish.

This way we should start to see a seamless joining of Architects & Building Designers & many other skilled operators in the Industry.

I would like to thank the Productivity Commission for an excellent Report and for the chance to appear before this Hearing.

I would also like to express my thanks to the Building Designers Association who because of their valued endeavours, we as design practitioners now have a strong voice in the industry.

Thank you.

Michael A Purtell