

**NOEL CHRYSTAL**  
ARCHITECT

WA

14 December 1999

**PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION  
ARCHITECTS INQUIRY  
LB2, COLLINS STREET EAST  
MELBOURNE VICTORIA 8003**

I am an Architect, registered as such for about 40 years, initially in Victoria and, for most of my career in practise, in Western Australia.

It is my belief that the public, who wish to engage an Architect should be protected by the knowledge that the person (or persons) they engage has the necessary training and experience to fulfil that role.

To my knowledge there is no legislation in Australia which requires that those engaged in the design, documentation and contract administration of building projects be registered Architects. Many buildings, and most residential work, are carried out by non-Architects, and registration is therefore not a protection of privilege. However, the fact is that where the nature of the building projects warrants a degree of skill the public and institutions seek Architects either directly or through a project developer.

The Architect description is meaningless without a regulated system of accreditation vetting qualifications and experience. It is interesting to note that whilst Engineers are not regulated, Local Authorities seek that the structure be designed by a qualified Engineer member of the A.C.E.A. The A.C.E.A. is in effect a club as is our R.A.I.A. This is a privilege system, and a set up I do not agree with.

The Architects Board of WA advocates uniform legislation throughout the States and Territories, and this makes sense, as would the requirement of registration numbers displayed on Architects work.

I submit that in the interest of public protection the accreditation system for Architects should be improved, and not disbanded.

(signature)

**NOEL ALAN CHRYSTAL  
ARCHITECT WA**