

**Submission  
No 46**

**INQUIRY INTO FURTHER INQUIRY INTO THE  
REGULATION OF BUILDING STANDARDS**

**Name:** Mr James Guerrisi  
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## **Design & Building Practitioners Act**

I am writing this submission to address the current Design & Building Practitioners Act and the implication this act has on the Interior Design Industry.

I am practicing interior designer for the last 2-3 years with a previous background in Architectural studies. Towards the start of 2021 I launched my own practice which offers interior spatial design services for individual residential units (Class 2) and commercial spaces (Class 4 and 6). The scope of professional services offered include:

- Establish scope of work required, from programme to budget and the clients brief.
- Develop the functional needs and space requirements.
- Perform a site audit and investigation to determine current state of site and existing services.
- Verifying key site dimensions and draft CAD building plans as necessary.
- Integrate the development of secondary consultant design work into the planning and design of the project through meeting with consultants, suppliers, and contractors.
- Preparation and co-ordination of plans and specifications for **alterations to building interiors** that affect the structure of the building, required to obtain costs, and construct the project.
- Submitting plans and specifications for Authority approval including Development Applications and Complying Developments.
- Liaise with the builder and other consultants on behalf of the property owner/tenant to ensure construction decisions are consistent with design intentions.
- Evaluate and sign-off prototypes and samples to set standards of materials and workmanship for the project.
- Periodic site visits during the construction period.

Under the new Design & Building Practitioners Act, **'Interior Designers'** who provide services involving building work for a Class 2 Building or Buildings with a Class 2 part will now be required to register designs and need to be a registered Design Practitioner to make compliance declarations. Even if the design is only in relation to a part of a Class 2 building, such as one unit, or is a commercial space (retail store, restaurant/café, or office) within a mixed-use building, if it involves any Building Work or a Performance Solution, a Design Compliance Declaration is required.

**Qualifications in Interior Design** (not Building Design) and a Bachelor of Architecture render me unable to declare my designs as compliant as I do not hold the relevant qualifications for registration, and currently there are no pathways to recognise an interior designers' expertise to become registered.

Within this profession, we often get lost under the interior decoration category - given the professions similar names and the varying levels of industry registration and regulation, interior designer scope of professional services is often unknown and confusing and subsequently

has seen the interior design industry overlooked in the act. However with my level of study and as a practicing Interior Spatial Designer with a wealth of knowledge and very hands on experience, I find it to be an incredible oversight from the state government that we are prohibited from working within these classes when we consult with the appropriate parties to make structural and service changes.

Including a category for Design Practitioners (interiors) in the Design and Building Practitioners Act and having a clear system of industry registration and regulation (as currently exists in Victoria) is the first step to educating Australian consumers on whether they will need input from an Architect, building designer, interior designer, or decorator for their project and ensuring compliance in their projects execution, which is my understanding on the acts aim.

Without the recognition of interior designers in the act it will restrict mine and many other small businesses from performing work that they are skilled, qualified and experience to do. The new framework needs to be immediately reassessed to address the exclusion of interior designers in the Design and Building Practitioners Act.

I hope you will consider this submission,

Kind regards,  
James Guerrisi