

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

Organisation: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I run a design company which has been in operation for over 50 years. We do architecture and Interiors as a combined service. We do work in Australia and Internationally.

I have degree in Interior Architecture and employ registered architects in NSW to do architectural work in Australia. However this new NSW legislation does not allow me to register as a principal design professional and building practitioner because it only recognises registered architects and people with TAFE building drafting qualification. I am concerned that this legislation is too restrictive and will isolate design companies who cannot register with the new legislation.

I am also concerned that we will not be able to obtain Professional Indemnity insurance because we cannot register notwithstanding that we have 50 years of construction experience.

I understand that the legislation is aimed at identifying practitioners who work on a project so that they can be linked to any future claims for problems within a building. This has been an ongoing problem in Class 2 buildings which the government is trying to address. While the current registration is mainly aimed at Class 2 buildings it will also inevitably include Class 1 buildings.

The NSW government needs to address this issue urgently and allow all Interior Designers, Interior Architects to register so as to avoid a discrimination of professions, create a situation where professionals are restricted in the type of work that they can do and prevent insurance companies charging higher fees if one is not registered or cannot be registered because of the way the government has setup the legislation.

As professionals we are all in favour of regulation in the construction industry but not where legislation is designed to exclude professional qualifications and practical building experience over decades. While I personally may not be a registered architect I do manage architectural projects under my company name and wish to continue to do so.

I would hope that the NSW government will amend the legislation to be more inclusive as soon as possible.