

**Submission
No 50**

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

Name: Miss Anna Thompson

Date Received: 14 September 2021

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

I am an interior designer student and will be hoping to run my own small business in the future where I would offer interior design services for commercial spaces (class 5 and 6), individual residential units (class 2), and residential homes (class 1). The scope of professional services offered include:

- Establish scope of work required, programme, budget and brief
- Develop functional needs and space requirements brief
- Inspection and analysis of site, it's locality and surrounds
- Identify Safety Issues and code 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 and Building practitioners act "Interior Designers" who provide services involving building work for a Class 2 Building or buildings with a Class 2 part, (all other parts of the building including other Class 6 or Class 5 parts of a building) 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) 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 interior designers' expertise to become registered.

Interior Designer is included as an occupation under the Australian & New Zealand Statistical Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) 23 Design, Engineering, Science and Transport Professionals | 232 Architects, Designers, Planners and Surveyors | 2325 Interior Designers | 232511 Interior Designer.

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.

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 many 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.