

Submission
No 52

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 15 September 2021

Partially
Confidential

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

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) 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.

It is an oversight from the state government that interior designers 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 of the acts aim.

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