

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

Organisation: TAFE NSW
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TAFE NSW DESIGN CENTRE ENMORE
INTERIOR DESIGN TEACHING SECTION
110 Edgeware Rd
ENMORE, NSW 2042

Submission to the Parliament of NSW Public Accountability Committee on:

Further inquiry into the regulation of building standards

September 2021

Scope of this submission:

This submission outlines TAFE NSW Design Centre Enmore Interior Design teaching section concerns that the new system of building designer registration in NSW will have unintended detrimental impact on graduating interior designers.

TAFE NSW Interior design qualifications

TAFE NSW is the leading provider of Interior Design qualifications in Australia. As the NSW Government's public provider of vocational education and training, we aim to:

- provide education service to meet the skills needs of individuals and the workforce
- consult with industry and the community to ensure services are relevant
- help students progress to other studies either at TAFE, university or other training providers.

Under the Australian and New Zealand Statistical Classification of Occupations (ANZCO) Interior Design is listed under 23. Design, Engineering, Science and Transport Professionals, within 232 Architects, Designers, Planners and surveyors – 2325 Interior Designers, 235211 Interior Designer.

As described in the qualification skills for the **Diploma of Interior design**, the role of the interior designer is to provide advice mainly for residential building interiors. The course provides the skills and knowledge required to provide a broad range of design advice and services and work in collaboration with builders, architects and service contractors, as well as prepare detailed design documentation.

The **Diploma of building design** qualification focuses on the job skills of drafters and develops skills in designing, drafting and documenting plans, specifications and documentation for buildings of all classifications. Underpinning knowledge, the ability to analyse and synthesise information from a range of sources to generate design solutions.

Eligibility requirements of the Design and Building practitioners Act state that the following knowledge and skills are required, all of which are criteria embedded in units of competency delivered in both the Diploma of Interior Design, Bachelor of Design, Interior Design:

- *Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020 and Regulation*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and regulations
- *Building Code of Australia* (volumes 1 and 2)
- Building design, including methods, materials and planning

The skills required include the ability to:

- interpret, apply and assess compliance with the relevant requirements of the *Building Code of Australia*.
- apply and assess compliance with relevant standards relating to the design of a building, including materials, finishes, fittings, components, and systems of a building.

Accreditation under the new registration system

Under the new accreditation system, Interior Designers are unable to meet the requirements for registration as the system specifies qualifications, for example, Diploma of building design or Architectural design rather than specific competencies.

Although the Interior Design course content within the scope of services provided by an interior designer is comparable to the specified qualifications, graduating interior design students do not have a formal recognition process by government equivalent to architects, builders and other trades.

Both the Diploma of building design and Diploma of Interior Design are AQF level 5 courses, causing further confusion to students graduating from Interior Design who will not be permitted to produce documentation they have been trained to do.

Modifying the registration process to include Interior Designers in the legislation and regulations would formalise and validate the qualifications, helping to regulate the profession and eliminate the growing industry of individuals with little formal training and commitment to professional standards.

Conclusion

As primary educators of future Interior designers, we need to provide students with every opportunity to be able to fulfil requirements of industry.

Including Interior Designers in the registration for Design Practitioners would help to formally recognise the completion of recognised qualifications, regulate the industry and maintain high professional standards.

Alternatively, identification of specific competencies required to supplement the Interior design qualifications and provide the opportunity for Interior designers to register as Design Practitioners would provide a more equitable approach to the Design and Building Practitioners Act and more industry ready qualifications.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Todd Packer

Head teacher Interior Design

TAFE NSW Design Centre Enmore

Ann Normoyle

Team Leader, Creative and Design Ideation

Skills team, TAFE NSW

Tanya Dobble

Head teacher Interior Design

TAFE NSW Design Centre Enmore