

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

Organisation: Luchetti Krelle Pty Ltd

Date Received: 19 September 2021



Submission to the Parliament of New South Wales Public Accountability Committee concerning: The further inquiry into the regulation of building standards

18 September 2021

Submitted online via <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/>

A. Submission Purpose

We submit this letter to express our concern regarding the recent changes in legislation outlining the criteria of a Design Practitioner pursuant to the recent amendment to the Design and Building Practitioners Act and the significant impact this will have on our practice as well as other **Interior Design Practices** across NSW.

B. About Us

Luchetti Krelle is an interior design and architecture practice specialising in hospitality design. Since launching in 2008 we have created over 100+ ventures locally and abroad, of which many have received national and global design awards.

Led by **Rachel Luchetti (B. Design Interior Hons1, University of Technology Sydney, 2002)** and **Stuart Krelle (B. Design Interior Hons1, University of Technology Sydney, 2004)** our team are curated of highly skilled and qualified individuals with extensive experience spanning the hospitality, retail, and residential design sectors.

C. Impact of the New DBPA Registration Requirements

The changes in requirements for Design Practitioners outlined in the Design and Building Practitioners Act effective 1 July 2021 mean that the vast majority of **Interior Designers** do not meet the criteria to be recognised as a Design Practitioner.

Consequently, **Interior Designers** are no longer able to lodge compliance documentation.

This is not because we, as **Interior Designers**, are unqualified to produce compliant documentation but because the new Design Practitioner registration system limits recognition to Architect and Building Trade qualifications rather than the competencies and qualifications of **Interior Designers**.

As a result, many **Interior Design Practices** like ours are required to engage an external specialist consultant that meets the Design and Building Practitioner registration criteria to review, approve and submit documentation and accept liability for work that is not their own. Not only does this new system incur additional costs on our businesses, it undermines our ability and competence to produce the level of work necessary.

D. Solution

We recognise the lines are blurred and often misunderstood when differentiating between the role of a **Professionally Qualified Interior Designer** against Interior Stylists, Decorators, and other Design Consultancies.

We observe a recent shift in the re-naming of University Courses to preference the term "interior architecture" and move away from the traditionally used terms of "interior design" and "spatial design". The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and University of New South Wales (UNSW) are two of the esteemed institutions who have adopted this trend. Perhaps this trend is in response to the often-misunderstood role of the **Professionally Qualified Interior Designer**?

We understand the importance of our role as **Interior Designers** is to responsibly produce documentation to meet compliance standards.

We believe it is imperative to the future success of the **Interior Design Industry** to have a system that recognises qualifications associated with **Interior Designers** as part of the Design Practitioner criteria.



E. Conclusion

I, myself, am a Registered Architect in New South Wales.

I am fortunate to work in collaboration with a team of talented **Professionally Qualified Interior Designers** at Luchetti Kelle.

On behalf of Rachel Luchetti and Stuart Kelle and our talented team of designers, I submit this letter in support of recognising the contribution of **Professionally Qualified Interior Designers** in the built environment industry.

Regards,

Tommy Ford
Group Studio Manager | Registered Architect NSW 9178 | RAIA