

**INQUIRY INTO REVIEW INTO THE DESIGN AND  
BUILDING PRACTITIONERS ACT 2020 AND THE  
RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT BUILDINGS (COMPLIANCE  
AND ENFORCEMENT POWERS) ACT 2020**

**Name:** Melanie Mackenzie

**Date Received:** 1 July 2024

---

The D & BP Act as it stands excludes Interior Designers from being able to be registered as a Design Practitioner. This has meant that in many instances, Interior Designers are unable to undertake interior renovation projects for clients on individual apartments within Class 2 Buildings due to the scope including for example heritage status requiring a Development Application, structural changes, changes to layouts of bathrooms or changes to fire services and many other circumstances which trigger the Act. The consequence of this is that Interior Designers have suffered a reduction in work and income for interior design projects that could have been successfully undertaken by us. This work is now undertaken by architects and building designers who are not always experienced to undertake complex interior design projects or able to deliver outcomes that our client's seek. There is also an increased fee for some Class 2 apartment owners who now must employ an architect or building designer and interior designer to undertake the same services to get the outcome they seek.

The Government didn't engage with our industry body, the Design Institute of Australia (DIA) when drafting up the initial Act but instead informed us that we wouldn't be affected by the Act. This has been far from the actual reality and has caused loss of income and livelihood as well as stress and confusion for Interior designers and apartment owners. Many Interior Designers are professionals who have 4-year Degree and Honors qualifications and undertake projects which involve complex coordination of services consultant's and structural engineers designs within our interior designs. We have successfully undertaken these projects for years with very little adverse effects and risk to our clients or the apartments and buildings they inhabit. It seems the Government did not consult our profession to understand what we do and instead made assumptions based on unfounded beliefs of what our profession does. We have a large impact on the construction industry through the projects we undertake where we often design and specify between 65- 100% of projects overall spend making us a large contributor to money spent within the construction industry.

We ask that any revisions to the Act include a pathway for qualified, indemnified and experienced Interior Designers to be able to be Registered Design Practitioners under the Act and resume the work that have successfully been undertaking for decades.