

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

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.

Architects and building designers are not as experienced in complex interior design projects or able to deliver outcomes that client's seek. There is also an increased fee and extended process for some Class 2 apartment where owners now require architect/building designer and an interior designer.

The Government didn't engage with our industry body, the Design Institute of Australia (DIA) when drafting up the initial Act informing us that we wouldn't be affected by the Act.

However we have now been excluded from the documentation phase and there has been no justification as to why interior architecture and design qualifications would not be applicable. 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 design

This has caused loss of income and livelihood as well as stress and confusion for Interior designers and apartment owners.

Interior Design and Architecture is a key and necessary profession to the construction industry. In the projects we undertake where we 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.