

**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

I started my interior design business in 2020 after 30+ years in the industry. Since then, I have turned down six or seven project enquiries that contain Class 2 requirements. Conservatively, that's \$500K less for my business in the last 3.5 years alone. After investigating consultants to assist through the process, it deemed too expensive for clients and messy with insurance.

After working in multi residential space as an interior designer running teams of designers and architects in larger firms, I have the experience to do the work but absolutely no pathway to add it as a service. I have experience with teams of consultants such as fire engineers, access consultants, hydraulic and structural consultants etc and fully understand the implications of renovations inside apartment buildings. I would happily sit an exam to prove my understanding of the requirements.

How can our government impact our income like this? I have been training my whole career (30+years) to service the multi residential sector and one government decision has literally cut my business opportunities in half.

I believe Multi residential living is our future, it is the best way to plan cities. I also think that after years of experience working with architects and planners, it is fundamental that interior designers have a say in how we live. We have a different point of view that improves the quality of the environment people live in.

I am already hearing potential (boomer) clients not undertake extensive renovations in existing buildings due to the onerous process, instead waiting for new builds. In turn, new units fetch record sale prices as this group is prepared to pay over and above the actual value, having wised up to not renovate! As a unit owner myself, even the building & strata managers roll their eyes at the cost of defects or repairs, having experienced the hike in cost due to the Class 2 rules.

I have been forced to quickly pivot my business into just providing services in Class 1 residential projects, and hope to collaborate on Class 3 and 9C with other experts.

It's truly disappointing however, not to be able to extend my services and income to a class of building I am most familiar with which is Class 2, and had planned that my small business obtain at least 50% through apartment interior renovations.

I would like an opportunity to be given a pathway that allows me to undertake Class 2 renovations.