

15 October 2014

21 OCT 2014

Hon. John Rau, MP
Minister for Housing and Urban Development
GPO Box 464
Adelaide SA 5001

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ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE	
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Action	ME
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Dear Minister

Re: Review of the SA Government Boards and Committees
Architectural Practice Board of South Australia

I am writing in relation to the review of the SA Government Boards and Committees -
Architectural Practice Board of South Australia.

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia ('AACA') is a not for profit corporate entity, located in Canberra. It is constituted of 2 nominees from all State and Territory Architects' registration boards in Australia. Its role as a national organisation is to coordinate and facilitate national standards for the registration of architects in Australia, assess (in conjunction with jurisdictional Boards) the qualifications and experience of overseas graduates, and to work internationally with similar registration authorities overseas, via international mutual recognition agreements, to assist architects registered in all Australian states and territories to be recognised and registered overseas.

The AACA met at its annual forum in Adelaide on 25th and 26th September 2014. At the Forum, AACA became aware of the current review into South Australian Government Boards and Committees, and in particular, the status of the Architectural Practice Board of SA ('the Board') within the recently released interim report of that review.

An architect is a trained, accredited and registered professional. Architects in Australia provide professional services in connection with the planning and the design, construction, enlargement, conservation, restoration or alteration of a building or group of buildings.

These professional services include, but are not limited to: planning, strategic and land-use planning, urban design, provision of preliminary studies, design, models, drawings, specifications and technical documentation, coordination of technical documentation prepared by others as appropriate and without limitation (consulting engineers, landscape architects and other specialist consultants), construction economics, contract administration, monitoring of construction and project management.

While other practitioners may provide building design services, architects must be registered with the Architects Registration Board in the state or territory in which they want to practice.

Architect Acts are enacted in every State and Territory in Australia. There are currently approximately 12,000 practising architects registered on the architect registers around Australia.

NOTE

a response to the same letter to
re Premier is being sent under
PR14/005746 MPK - 28-10-14

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPT.



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Mutual Recognition legislation has been implemented by all Australian jurisdictions and there is support from around Australia towards National Recognition of Architect Registration.

Internationally, under the APEC Architects Agreement, mutual recognition arrangements have been put into place with Japan and Chinese Taipei, and a tri-lateral agreement with Singapore and New Zealand. We expect to sign a tri-lateral agreement with Canada in February 2015, and with Hong Kong China by the end of 2015. These arrangements provide an expedited process for recognition of both qualifications and experience for registration to practice as architects within these countries, and vice versa.

It is the AACA's view that independent professional regulation bodies underpinned by legislation (such as the Board) are vitally important.

Like all State and Territory Architect Registration Boards around Australia, the key role of the Architectural Practice Board of South Australia is to protect consumers of architectural services by ensuring that architects provide services to the public in a professional and competent manner, disciplining architects who have acted unprofessionally or incompetently, accrediting architectural qualifications for the purpose of registration and informing the public about the qualifications and competence of individuals or organisations holding themselves out as architects.

At a jurisdictional level, their main focus is to protect the interests of the public. At a national and international level, the role of Boards extend to contributing to:

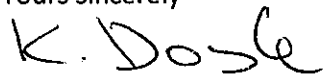
- the development of national standards of competencies
- the accreditation of courses of education leading to registration
- conducting the Architectural Practice Examination
- assessing overseas graduates and experienced architects

These functions make a significant contribution to maintaining a high standard of professional practice within Australia, as well as furthering the opportunities for Australian architects overseas.

I understand that the Board is an independent statutory body established under the Architectural Practice Act 2009 in South Australia. Its members are elected from within the architectural profession, with lay persons and a legal practitioner also appointed to the Board. AACA supports the continuation of the Board and the current legislation in SA, because it provides the Board with the legislative framework to undertake its role – independently, robustly and professionally.

Should you wish to make any further enquiries of AACA on this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Kate Doyle
CEO