Ref: 7.1.7

27 October 2011

BRCWG Secretariat
Deregulation Group
Department of Finance and Deregulation
John Gorton Building
King Edward Terrace
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Sir / Madam

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE FUTURE COAG REGULATORY REFORM AGENDA

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in response to the Stakeholder Consultation Paper on the Future COAG Regulatory Reform Agenda.

The Architects Board of WA (Board) would like to comment on the Enhancing Workforce Mobility theme identified in the consultation paper. It is suggested in the discussion paper that further work could be undertaken to determine whether incorporating further professions, such as engineers and architects, with the National Occupational Licensing System (NOLS) would provide overall net benefits for business.

As architecture is a mobile profession, the Board supports measures to remove state and territory boundaries for the profession. However, the Board does not support the inclusion of architects within future tranches of the NOLS. The architecture profession is already regulated in all states and territories and the mutual recognition of registration is working well throughout Australia. All registration boards use nationally agreed competency standards, examinations and accreditation processes for tertiary courses. As a result, nationally agreed standards for initial registration already exist.

Whilst the current system of allowing workforce mobility is working well, there is scope to improve this further. The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) and the registration boards have already developed a system of national registration for architects using mutual recognition. The Board understand that AACA will be providing details of this concept for national registration for architects in its submission to the Business Regulation and Competition Working Group.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Kerr
Registrar