



BOARD OF ARCHITECTS OF TASMANIA

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Newsletter – October 2020

Board Members

The Board is composed of five members: two elected by the Institute, Richard Crawford (Chairman) and Daniel Lane, the President of the Tasmanian Chapter of the Institute, Shamus Mulcahy and two appointed by the Governor, Catherine Parker and one current vacancy for which a recommendation has been made to the Minister.

Complaint against an architect and Ombudsman Report

The Board has received a Report from the Ombudsman relating to a complaint. The Board has acknowledged that more regular communication with the complainant should have occurred and that the time taken to finalise the matter was longer than expected. This was due to a number of circumstances.

Communication difficulties relating to emails highlighted in the Ombudsman Report have now been resolved with a change to our service provider.

As noted in the Ombudsman report, the Board's powers under the Architects Act 1929 to deal with complaints are limited and outdated. The Board has been endeavouring to have the Act amended since the 1990's with no success. The process has been complicated by changes to Ministers & Government, the introduction of the Building Act in 2000 followed by the amendments to Occupational Licensing Act in 2016.

The Board has resolved to take accept all the Recommendations in the Ombudsman's Report and to action them as soon as practical. Changes to the complaints procedures will be finalised when the Architects Amendment Bill 2020 is enacted. This will include setting time frames for each stage in the process and improved reporting to the complainant.

Architects Act 1929 - Amendment Bill 2020

The Bill was passed by the House of Assembly on 18 August 2020 and has been listed for a second Reading in the Legislative Council.

The main changes contained in the amendment Bill include:

1. New Complaints & disciplinary powers – Fines up to \$ 21,000
2. Updating qualifications for registration under the Act
3. Introducing CPD requirements
4. Allow the Board to create categories for registration with different practicing requirements
5. Require Professional Indemnity Insurance

Number of Registered Architects

There are currently 539 architects registered in Tasmania, with postal addresses as shown below:

STATE	Tasmanian Registered architects
Tasmania	278
Victoria	124
NSW	78
Queensland	34
South Australia	9
Western Australia	7
ACT	3
Northern Territory	2
Overseas	4
TOTAL	539

This calendar year has seen 59 registrations processed.

Architectural Practice Examination Exams

During 2020 only one session of the Architectural Practice Examination was held with Part 2 being conducted via remote on-line proctoring due to Covid-19.

In total, there were 4 applicants for Parts 1 & 2 of the exam with all 4 being successful, and 6 applicants for Part 3, with 4 being successful.

In 2021, there will again be two sessions with likely closing dates for Parts 1 & 2 applications of 12 February 2021 and 1 July 2021. The Part 2 Written Paper will be again via remote on-line proctoring format. Please refer to the [ACA website](#) for more information.

Candidates are required to record a minimum of 3,300 hours in their logbooks that range over all 15 Performance Criteria.

Board of Architects of Tasmania - University of Tasmania Prize for Professional Studies

The Board of Architects Prize for Professional Studies recognises excellent achievement in Professional Studies in the Master in Architecture by a student at the University of Tasmania. The Prize is based on meritorious achievement in aspects of architectural education related to readiness for professional practice based on selected performance criteria in the National Standard of Competency for Architects (NSCA). These criteria include parts of the Elements in NSCA which are defined in relation to architectural education by the curriculum of Architecture Program at the University of Tasmania.

Awarded to the student with the highest average mark of the following Units:

Year 1 – Professional Studies

Year 1 – Advanced Technologies

Year 2 – Integrated Studio

Year 2 – Professional Project

Value \$1,500

It is listed on the University website [Board of Architect Prize](#).

The Board's University prize for 2019 was awarded to **Ashley Goh**.

Registration Renewals and Continuing Professional Development for Architects

The Architects' model statutory Code of Professional Standards and Conduct which was prepared jointly by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects states at item 7.1:

“An architect must maintain and improve skills and knowledge necessary for the provision of the services through structured programmes of professional education”

Consumers can expect an architect to adhere to this Code and the Board will use the Code when considering a complaint against an architect.

As part of the renewal process, architects are required to submit to the Board a signed record of their CPD activities undertaken in the past twelve months, no later than 31 January 2021.

In accordance with the AACA/RAIA Joint Policy on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) the expectation is that architects will complete at least twenty (20) hours per year – where one hour in training equates to one CPD point. Activities in each year should relate to a minimum of two units in the National Architecture Competency Standards – Design, Documentation, Practice Management and Project Management and whether it is formal or informal CPD. At least 10 hours of CPD is required to be Formal CPD.

In consideration of the impact of Covid-19 in 2020 the Board has decided to implement a once-only reduction in CPD requirements for all architects.

For the 2020 reporting period, Architects should undertake a minimum of 15 hours of CPD (instead of 20 hours), of which at least 10 hours must be Formal CPD activity. Developing, documenting and managing Covid related protocols may be considered CPD activities.

Informal and formal CPD activity:

- Formal CPD is a learning activity with stated learning outcomes that is formally assessed or has significant interaction between presenter and learner.
- Informal CPD is a learning activity with stated learning outcomes that involves no formal assessment process or significant interaction between presenter and learner.

Architects complying with the CPD requirements will be recorded in the Register, listed on the Board's website and any other Board public listings as being CPD compliant. If non-compliant it will show CPD Non-compliant. Where an architect is a licensed building services provider and does not comply with the CPD requirements, the Board will notify the Director of Building Control Tasmania.

A record submitted to another Architects Board in Australia for renewal of registration in the last 7 months will be acceptable.

Random audits of the CPD will be undertaken. Your CPD record should be held for a period of 5 years.