



ARCHITECTS BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Newsletter

3 April 2018

Board Member Elections

As the terms of Board members John Taylor and Ante Zubac will expire on 30 June 2018, the Board is currently calling for nominations for the election of two members. The term for the newly elected Board members will run from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2020.

A nomination form and instructions for nomination were recently sent to the profession. If you would like to nominate yourself as a candidate, please complete that nomination form and return it to the Board with a one-page CV, and a one-page statement outlining the reasons for your nomination. If you did not receive your nomination form, please contact the Board. Nominations must be received by 5pm on Friday, 6 April 2018.

Review of the Board's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Framework

One of the Board's responsibilities under the *Architects Act 2004* is to ensure that practising architects applying for renewal of their registration have maintained a satisfactory level of knowledge, skill and competence in the practice of architecture. The Board's preferred method for establishing this level is through CPD activities which comply with its CPD Framework (eg: a minimum of 20 CPD points, 10 of which are formal).

The Board is currently conducting a review of its CPD Framework to determine, amongst other things, whether it is effective in establishing the required satisfactory level of knowledge, skill and competence and, in particular, how it applies to applicants who wish to return to the practising division of the register after a period of absence.

As part of its review, the Board is considering the CPD requirements in other jurisdictions in Australia and the requirements in other regulated professions such as law, medicine and engineering. The Board has also liaised with the Australian Institute of Architects in this matter. The review is on-going and the Board will keep all architects informed of the progress.

In the meantime, the Board's existing CPD Framework continues to apply. The onus for choosing, completing and recording CPD activities lies with each individual architect. A CPD recording sheet can be downloaded from the Board's website, however the Board will accept other CPD recording sheets as long as they contain similar information to that captured on the Board's sheet. The Board will also accept a written statement from architects, although you are encouraged to use the CPD recording sheet, if possible. Please note that you are not required to submit evidence of CPD activities to the Board with your registration renewal. If the Board has any questions, or concerns, about your CPD it will ask for evidence at that time.

Every year the CPD records of 5% of practising architects are audited by the Board. If you are selected in the CPD audit for the 2017/2018 registration year, you will receive notification from the Board within the next month.

Please ensure that you embark on an active program of CPD between now and 30 June 2018 so that you will meet the minimum requirements for renewal of registration and remember to record any CPD activities you undertake.

More information about CPD, including the Board's CPD Framework and a CPD Record form, can be found at the Board's website www.architectsboard.org.au

Licensed Corporations and Responsible Architects

Companies registered under the *Corporations Act 2001* and wishing to carry out architectural work using the term "architect", must be licensed by the Board.

Licensed corporations are required to ensure all architectural work is done under the direct control and supervision of a registered architect who is an officer or employee of the corporation. In addition, at least one registered architect, who is an officer or employee of the corporation, must have ultimate responsibility for the

architectural work done by the corporation and is known as the “responsible architect” for the corporation.

Licensed corporations must at all times ensure that their responsible architect/s are:

- a director, or employee, of the corporation; and
- currently registered with the Board.

For more information about responsible architects, please see “Information Sheet 05 – Responsible Architects” which can be found at the Board’s website.

New Format for Part 2 of the Architectural Practice Examination

As all architects will be aware, the Architectural Practice Examination (APE) is a 3-part examination which is the final step in the path to becoming registered as an architect in Australia.

In 2017, the AACA and Architect Boards across Australia engaged the Australian Council for Educational Research to review Part 2 of the APE, known as the National Examination Paper or “NEP”.

The review, amongst other things, recommended that the NEP be changed from a written examination to a computer-based one to be conducted at test centres in each jurisdiction. It was further recommended that whilst the NEP should remain scenario-based, each scenario should now have 5 multiple choice questions attached to it with one mark to be awarded for a correct answer and that negative marking for incorrect answers should be removed. In addition, each question will now have only one correct answer. The review also recommended that candidates should receive feedback with their results, based on the Performance Criteria in the National Standard of Competency for Architects.

These changes will be implemented for the first time when candidates sit the NEP on Tuesday, 17 April 2018 at Parmelia House in Perth.

ABWA Strategic Plan - Update

The Board has been working to implement its Strategic Plan for 2017-2020, which re-affirms the Board’s purpose to protect consumers of architectural services by:

- administering the registration scheme established under the *Architects Act 2004*;
- accrediting architectural education courses;
- ensuring that only properly qualified and competent persons are identified as architects;
- regulating the practice of architecture by architects; and
- monitoring the continuing education of architects to ensure they maintain appropriate levels of knowledge, skill and competence.

Action items adopted for each of the key priorities outlined in the Plan have been followed up – with a significant IT upgrade and the refurbishment of the Board’s offices the key items that are currently being developed.

A copy of the Board’s Strategic Plan can be viewed on the Board’s website at www.architectsboard.org.au under the “About Us” tab.



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