

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ARCHITECTS
BOARD**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020 / 2021**

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INTRODUCTION/STATUTORY BASIS

The Northern Territory Architects Board is a Statutory Board established under section 5 of the Northern Territory *Architects Act 1963* (the Act). It is responsible for the registration of architects and regulation of architectural practices within the Northern Territory and for administering the requirements of the Act. Like all similar Acts applied throughout Australia, its purpose is to ensure the general community can rely on the fact that people using the title “architect” are qualified, both academically and by practical experience, to fulfil their professional role.

BOARD COMPOSITION

The Board consists of five members, each appointed by the Minister for a term of three years. All must be resident in the Northern Territory; three members must be architects and at least one of these members must be a practising architect nominated by those members of the Australian Institute of Architects who practise and reside in the Territory. Two members are not architects. The positions of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are determined by the appointed members. Members are remunerated in accordance with the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2009*.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson (from 20 April 2021)	Sarah Williamson	Architect Member
Chairperson (until 14 December 2020)	Damien Moriarty	Non-Architect Member
Deputy Chairperson (from 20 April 2021)	Leslie (Adam) Walker	Architect Member
Member	Ross Finocchiaro	Architect Member
Member (from 15 December 2020)	Gerard Rosse	Non-Architect Member
Member	Jill Huck	Non-Architect Member

Member and Chairperson Damien Moriarty completed his term on 14 December 2020. Member Gerard Rosse was appointed to fill the vacant position on the Board. Member Sarah Williamson was elected as Chairperson at the next Board meeting and Member Leslie (Adam) Walker was elected as Deputy Chairperson.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

The Board meets in Darwin to attend to such matters as applications for registration (lodged under either the *Architects Act 1963* or *Mutual Recognition (Northern Territory) Act 1992*), architectural practice examinations, and various other matters relating to the regulation of architectural practice. The Board also considers urgent matters including applications lodged under the mutual recognition provisions out of session; these decisions are then endorsed at the next Board meeting. The Board met on five occasions during the 2020 / 2021 financial year.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

The Act provides for the registration of individual architects, architectural partnerships and architectural companies. The Act requires the Board to authorise the registration of a natural person as an architect if the person satisfies the Board that he or she holds, or is entitled to hold, a certificate from the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia which certifies that the person is suitably qualified to practise architecture and that he or she is a fit and proper person to be registered as an architect. The Act requires that a director or an employee of the company, who is a registered architect, is responsible for managing the architectural practice of the partnership/company in the Territory and supervising the provision of architectural services provided. The Act also requires a company constitution to contain provisions to notify the Board of an intention to amend its constitution; and that a body corporate shall not be eligible to be a director of the company. The Board has requested amendment to the Architects Act to remove this requirement.

Alternative pathways for the registration of individual architects are provided by the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992*, and the *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997* which facilitate freedom of movement of architects across Australian States and Territories and between Australia and New Zealand. A registrant who is in good standing in one jurisdiction may lodge a notice (in the form of a statutory declaration) requesting a second jurisdiction to “mutually recognise” his/her registration in the first jurisdiction.

ARCHITECTS REGISTER – REGISTRATION STATISTICS

During 2020/2021 the Board considered applications and authorised the registration of three individual architects under the Architects Act and 11 individual architects under the provisions of the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992*.

The Board did not receive any applications for partnerships during the 2020/2021 period.

Two companies lodged applications for registration; both were approved and registered as of 30 June 2021.

As at 30 June 2021, 176 individual architects, 28 architectural companies and one partnership are currently registered in the Northern Territory. Approximately 51 percent of companies and partnerships and 43 percent of individuals are located or have offices in the NT.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Licensing Team manages the licensing arrangements necessary to support the Architects Board as part of the functions of Licensing NT. Licensing support is provided in accordance with the Act and includes: processing applications, organising examinations, maintaining the register and communicating with registrants, prospective candidates for the architectural practice examination, other State/Territory Boards, the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACCA) and the Australian Institute of Architects.

The Board and Commission Support Team managed the administrative arrangements necessary to support the Architects Board as part of the functions of Licensing NT. Secretariat support is provided in accordance with the Act and includes: organising meetings, preparation of agenda papers, recording minutes, preparing and forwarding the Annual Report to the Minister and handling Board appointments.

RESTRICTION ON USE OF TITLE “ARCHITECT”

Under the provisions of the Act, use of the title “architect” and/or any description indicating that the practice of architecture is carried out in the Northern Territory, is restricted to those individuals, companies and partnerships registered in the Territory. This requirement for registration ensures that members of the public using the services of an architect have access to practitioners with the appropriate level of qualifications and experience. Persons who have academic qualifications may practise their profession, but are not permitted to use the title unless formally registered. The Board monitors the restricted use of the title “architect”.

The Board has cause from time to time to remind entities such as the NT News and various real estate agents to use care when using the title but is mostly ineffective because the legislation provides no real power to enforce the consumer protection intent of the legislation.

ARCHITECTS ACCREDITATION COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (AACA)

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) is the national organisation responsible for establishing, coordinating and advocating national standards for architects in Australia and for reciprocity arrangements with overseas authorities. AACA is comprised of nominees, being the Chair and Registrar, from all State and Territory Architects’ Registration Boards in Australia.

The 2020 AGM and forum were held via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions on travel. The Board nominees; past Chairman Damien Moriarty and Registrar Penny Desouza attended.

ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE EXAMS

Successful completion of a three part Architectural Practice Examination forms one of the criteria for registration as an architect Australia-wide. The examinations are offered twice each year under the supervision of the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA). One of the outcomes of the COVID-19 restrictions was the moved to online tests and video conferences for oral examinations, thus removing the need for examination centres. The tests are conducted by experienced local architects nominated by the Board and approved by AACA. Three applicants sat the August 2020 examination and one applicant sat the April 2021 examination. All examinees were successful and subsequently registered with the Board as practising architects.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade administers the Board's finances and the financial statement forms a part of the Department's report. Income is derived from application and annual renewal of registration fees. All income received is paid into consolidated revenue in accordance with section 36 of the Act. Examination fees are collected on behalf of AACA, part of the fee is required to be remitted to AACA. A process has now been implemented to ensure a portion is now paid to examiners, the balance remains as income in consolidated revenue.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Act is currently being reviewed in consultation with the Board to bring it in line with current business practices.

CURRENT REGISTRATIONS

As required by the Act, the register of architects as at the end of February was published in Gazette No. G14 on 8 April 2021.

A current list of registered individuals, partnerships and companies is available on the Board's website at www.ntab.nt.gov.au