

Having trouble reading this email? [View it in your browser.](#)

Newsletter 20/8/2015

Dear

Welcome to the second NZRAB newsletter for 2015

In recent months substantial improvements have taken place in the way the NZRAB does some of its work, as this newsletter describes.

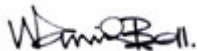
Most noteworthy has been the introduction of new disciplinary procedures.

I especially want to thank all those on the working party and the staff who worked on this. I also thank the staff in the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment and Parliamentary Counsel for assisting prepare the required regulations. It's been a massive effort by a large number of people.

We have also updated the minimum standards for initial and continuing registration, which is another important achievement. Again, the NZRAB thanks all those who were involved.

Both reforms required consultations with architects and other stakeholders. The feedback from architects was comprehensive, thoughtful and valuable. Thank you for that.

Best wishes



Warwick Bell
Chair



NZRAB News

New discipline procedures

On 29 May 2015, new disciplinary procedures came into effect. These markedly simplified the process by which the NZRAB investigates a complaint against an architect and determines if a formal disciplinary hearing is required. Also, the new procedures mean the people who investigate or hear the evidence make the decisions.

This is a big improvement on the previous system where recommendations from investigations and hearings went back to the Board for final decisions, which was always a struggle because the Board hadn't heard the evidence first hand.

Now, when a complaint is received, it is investigated by an Investigating Committee which is empowered to either dismiss the complaint if it clearly lacks merit or decide that a formal disciplinary hearing is required. If a disciplinary hearing is required, it is held as a Board meeting, which means decisions can be made directly.

Right now we are processing complaints received under the old rules, while also dealing with complaints received after 29 May 2015. Once the complaints received under the old rules are finished with, things will work much more smoothly.

New Investigating Committee Chair

As part of these changes, a standing Chair of our Investigating Committees has been appointed. Penny Mudford's speciality is mediation and arbitration services, so she brings

experience and familiarity with legal processes to this. Previously the chairing of these committees rotated, but we concluded that a permanent appointment would be better.

New minimum standards

Starting 1 July 2015, new minimum standards for initial and continuing registration are now in place. You can read them [here](#) and [here](#). These new standards don't change the fundamentals, but there are subtle shifts. Rule 21(1)(a) now says that an architect must demonstrate that he or she can "continue to practise competently in his or her practice area to the standard of a registered architect". The reference to the "practice area" is new, ie the revised rule recognises that architects specialise. Then look at rule 21(2)(b) which for the first time explicitly requires that an architect be self-aware about the boundaries of his or her competence, again recognising and requiring architects to manage their specialisation.

Competence Reviews 2015

Meantime the NZRAB's day-to-day work continues. This year 151 architects have had their five-year competence reviews, all successfully.

First APEC Architect registration

For the first time, the NZRAB has had what we call a pathway 3 registration, which is a special fast-track procedure for offshore APEC Architects to become registered in New Zealand. We currently have mutual recognition arrangements to allow for this with Japan, Singapore and Canada. The registration procedure involves an interview about aspects of the architectural process in New Zealand that are specific to New Zealand. To our great satisfaction, a Singapore APEC Architect, Aaron Lim, recently applied and was granted registration in New Zealand in this way. Welcome Aaron!

USA MRA

At the same time, negotiations are underway on a possible mutual recognition arrangement for fast-track cross-border registrations with the USA. It is early days, but very exciting, if we can do it.

Code of ethics consultation coming

Shortly we'll be asking architects for feedback on proposed changes to the architects code of ethics. A working party has completed its deliberations, and a formal consultation is expected to take place in the next few months.

E-case studies test

An initial registration round is underway in Auckland at which for the first time we are trialing some applicants presenting their case studies in a PDF, as opposed to hard copy, format. If adopted, it will mean significant savings in printing costs for future applicants.

Occupational Licensing Review

The government is reviewing occupational licensing in the building sector, of which the NZRAB is a part. The government's interest is in the overall statutory and institutional context. Architects, architectural designers, engineers, the construction trades, plumbers, gasfitters and electricians are in the mix. The government has indicated that a white paper will be issued later in the year.

Accountability agreement signed off

The NZRAB's 2015 2016 Accountability Agreement with the Minister for Building and Housing was recently signed off. It includes our KPIs for the 2015 2016 period. You can view the agreement [here](#).

ACR payments to come

Currently 41 architects are recorded on the register as "expired" because they have not yet paid for their 2015 2016 Annual Certificate of Registration. Invoices went out in May. We are now making phone calls to follow this up. An architect who is "expired" is breaking the law if he or she is offering or providing building design services and using the title "architect". Also, under the Building Act, an "expired" architect cannot get a building consent on a residential project.

That's our news to date. If you have any issues or concerns, do get in touch at 04 471 1336 or info@nzrab.org.nz.

+64 4 471 1336, info@nzrab.org.nz, www.nzrab.nz

Click to [unsubscribe](#)