

Business licensing reform inquiry

Response ID:32 Data

1.

1. Your contact details

First name

Amanda

Last name

Dawes

Organisation (if responding on behalf of an organisation)

Master Painters & Decorators Australia

3. Please indicate who you represent:

Business or occupational licence holder

4. Which business or occupational licence(s) do you hold or are you affected by?

Painter's Registration

5. How do these business or occupational licences affect you and what suggestions do you have to improve them?

As contractors our members are required to be registered as contractors and practitioners as a requirement of the building act.

The effect of the abolishment of the Painters Registration Act and the merge into the Building Act has been negative and detrimental to the painting & decorating industry. The lack of standards and enforcement that are suited to what is a finishing trade and not a service provider has had the following impact:

- Lack of qualified inspectors for painting & decorating
- Lack of physical policing and surveillance of unlicensed painters
- Complaint process not suited to painting trade. ie: Desk top review of complaints
- Has tried to make industry fit into Building & Energy (formerly Building Commission) processes, rather than processes created to work with industry
- 2 Licenses instead of 1
- Created anomalies when contracting and subcontracting between the building contractor and the painting subcontractor

We have many suggestions for improvement, but would like to meet through the hearing and workshops process of this enquiry to present how we believe our industry could be managed more appropriately.

6. Are there aspects of the business and occupational licensing arrangements that affect you that are working well?

No, we believe the Building & Energy (formerly the Building Commission) needs a full review for our trade. Its function and processes of regulation do not meet the requirements of our industry from both the tradesman and consumer perspective.

7. Do you have any other comments?

We believe that the painting & decorating industry requires regulation (registration/licensing), for the following reasons:

- Consumer protection from unqualified painters
- Maintenance of quality of work and business practice
- O H & S
- Apprenticeships and employment opportunities

Consideration should be given to the licensing of other trades within the building sector. Trades that cannot

easily be managed by Building supervisors due to the nature of their trade eg: plastering

More consideration in licensing/registration process be given to the running of businesses. So the true cost of workmanship can be realised.