

26 April 2010

## **NZRAB Newsletter 1/2010**

Hello from the NZRAB for the first time in 2010.

This newsletter contains important information that you need to look at carefully.

### **CPD Points Policy updated**

Last year the Board revised its policy for how CPD points are allocated. The policy provides in detail the basis on which points are awarded by the scheme's administrators (the NZIA). From the policy you can work out what to expect when you apply for points for individual activities or points are assigned to scheduled activities. The policy can be viewed [here](#) and it's also available via a link on your individual CPD webpage.

### **Continuing Registration Policy updated**

The Board has also updated its Continuing Registration Policy which determines how every five years we confirm that architects are still competent, as required by the Registered Architects Act 2005, the first of these taking place next year. Most of the changes are minor, except for clause 27 which is new and important for those architects who won't reach the CPD 1000 points target for automatic ongoing registration.

For continuing registration, architects are required to meet what the Registered Architects Rules 2006 call "the minimum standard for continued registration". This is pegged to the requirements for initial registration, but filtered depending on the nature of the architect's day-to-day work. Clause 27 sets down the criteria for this, saying that for continuing registration:

- a) All architects, regardless of their day-to-day work, must know and understand the Architects Code of Ethical Conduct and the statutory and regulatory requirements that apply to the architectural process in at least as much detail as for initial registration.*
- b) Where the various stages of the architectural process are a regular part of an architect's day-to-day work then that architect is required to know and understand them in at least as much detail as for initial registration.*
- c) Where any of the various stages of the architectural process are **not** a regular part of an architect's day-to-day work, the architect's required level of knowledge need **not** be as detailed, though the architect must still understand the subject sufficiently to be able to take responsibility for that part of the architectural process.*

The updated policy is on the NZRAB website [here](#).

### **Competence Review Application Form**

Also, architects who don't expect to reach the 1000 points target should have a careful look at the draft form which they will have to fill out as the first step in having what we are calling a "Competence Review". You can see what's proposed and what is likely to be required [here](#).

Please give some time to this, so you can plan ahead. This form is still a work in progress, so we can make changes if your feedback indicates they are needed. If you have any suggestions, call me (04 471 1336).

### **Possible institutional reform**

The Government is reviewing occupational licensing throughout the economy and, consequently, the Department of Building and Housing is reviewing occupational licensing in the building sector.

As part of this, the Department of Building and Housing recently asked the NZRAB to take part in a workshop on terms of reference for the review. In light of this, the NZRAB has done some back-to-basics thinking about what should happen if change is coming. You can view a background

paper on this [here](#).

Meantime, we are keeping the NZIA and ADNZ, which represents designers, up to date, and we will do our best to keep you informed too, remembering that it is the government, and not the NZRAB, that sets the timeframe and makes the decisions.

### **Board vacancies**

And talking of governance issues, a number of vacancies are coming up on the NZRAB Board. If you think you might like to serve on the Board, go [here](#). The deadline for applications has been extended and is now 7 May.

### **Leapfroggers and continuing registration**

In other news, this year 119 architects have chosen to “leapfrog” their registration. These are architects who during 2009 achieved 1000 or more CPD points in four years or less and have chosen to move forward into the 2010 – 2015 registration cycle.

### **Real estate agents, again!**

Our continuing *bête noire* is real estate agents who, when advertising properties, claim that the designer is an architect when in fact he or she is no such thing. Presumably, this talks up the price at the buyer’s expense.

Real estate agents now have their own registration agency, the Real Estate Agents Authority, and recent we have laid two complaints against real estate agents. Last year two real estate agents advertised a very expensive property and named the “architect”. We told the two agents that the “architect” was no such thing. The house didn’t sell and this year we saw the same two agents placing another advertisement for the same property again claiming that the same named designer is a “renowned” architect.

Most recently, an agent advertised a house as “Architect Designed”. We emailed the agent asking “Who’s the architect?” The agent replied with the name of a person who in fact is not an architect, as a search of the architects’ register or Google instantly reveals.

So, the complaints have been laid. Watch this space.

### **Annual invoices coming**

The time is fast approaching when we will need to issue architects with their 2010/2011 Certificates of Registration. This process starts with invoices for your annual fees being sent out in mid-May. From **1 July** architects who have not paid their annual fees will be recorded on the New Zealand Architects Register as “Expired”, until payment is made. If your postal address has changed, please let us know or log on as an architect and change it yourself.

That’s our news to date.

Take care and, of course, if you have any concerns please get in touch directly.

Paul Jackman  
Chief Executive  
New Zealand Registered Architects Board  
04 471 1336, 021 280 0197