



## **Review of the *National Competency Standards in Architecture (NCSA)***

**Request for Feedback by 19 July 2013**

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### ***The National Competency Standards in Architecture (NCSA)***

AACA's National Competency Standards in Architecture is the document setting out the benchmark standards of competency against which an applicant for registration as an architect in Australia and New Zealand is measured. It should be seen as the measure of the knowledge, skill and experience that is required of a practitioner for entry to the profession. To this end the NCSA are used for a number of purposes including the assessment of qualifications and practical experience.

Selected competencies from the NCSA are the basis for the accreditation evaluations of architecture courses in Australia and in New Zealand. They are similarly used in other processes to determine academic equivalence to an accredited Australian architecture qualification. The NCSA is used as the basis for examination processes toward registration as an architect in Australia.

The current NCSA, together with an accompanying document (the *NCSA Integrated Framework*) which shows how the NCSA relate to AACA assessment processes, can be accessed via <http://www.aaca.org.au/publications/>.

### ***The Review of the NCSA***

The *National Competency Standards in Architecture (NCSA)* are currently under review. This is part of a five yearly review cycle, with the most recent occurring in 2008. The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) has authorized the establishment of a Review Group to provide recommendations regarding the NCSA.

It is the intention of the Review Group to undertake an extensive review of the NCSA which will include its structure, format, and general and detailed content.

### ***Stakeholder Feedback***

The Review Group recognises that many stakeholders and groups have an interest in the content and usage of the NCSA. Hence the Review Group is commencing a consultation process inviting comments from stakeholders and interested parties which will be considered in the review of the NCSA.

This feedback is an important element of the review and we welcome your responses to the questions below and any further comments you may wish to offer.

### ***Timeline***

The Review Group will provide recommendations to the AACA for forwarding to the AACA Council meeting in September 2014. To achieve this timetable the first stage of consultation requires feedback to be received by the Review Group by **July 19<sup>th</sup> 2013** via the AACA ([ncsareview@aaca.org.au](mailto:ncsareview@aaca.org.au)). This will enable a draft proposal for the *NCSA* to be prepared for further comment by stakeholders within the timeframe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

### **NCSA Review Group**

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### **NCSA Feedback Questions**

1. As a stakeholder, are you aware of the existence of the *NCSA* and if so do you understand the purposes for which they are used for accreditation of architectural qualifications and registration as an architect?
2. Do you understand how they are used for accreditation of architectural qualifications as well as registration as an architect?
3. Are the *NCSA* relevant to your activities and if so how are they used?
4. Are the fundamentals of architectural practice as reflected in the *NCSA* still relevant for the purposes of registration as an architect?
5. Do you consider the current framework of Units, Contexts, Elements and Performance Criteria within the *NCSA* is easily understood and appropriate for its purposes?
6. Is the terminology clear, consistent and appropriate?
7. To what extent do you consider the descriptions under 'Context' and 'Elements' are relevant to current and future modes of architectural practice?
8. Does the current format of the *NCSA* clearly align competencies with the purposes of (i) accrediting qualifications and (ii) the registration of architects?
9. Can you identify omissions from the current *NCSA* that prevent them from reflecting current and future practice?
10. Can you identify redundancies in the current *NCSA*?
11. Please include any other comments regarding the *NCSA*.

May 2013