



**AACA RESEARCH STRATEGY**  
**COLLECT – CONNECT – INFORM**  
**April 2015**

*The AACA aims to become a leading innovator in commissioning and leveraging research at the intersection of architectural education and practice that connects and informs government, industry and the education sector.*

*Through the implementation of its Research Strategy, AACA will become a respected platform for knowledge about the Australian architectural sector; focused on quality standards in education, practice and the policy environment in which architects operate.*

Our Research Strategy will inform activities, resourcing and decision-making:

- by the AACA, and State and Territory Architect Registration Boards by better understanding the drivers and trends within architectural education, practice and the evolving policy landscape that impacts on architectural service quality in Australia;
- within AACA by improving processes for assessment of overseas qualifications assessments, competency based assessment for the purpose of registration as an architect in Australia, processes for accreditation of architecture programmes in Australia, international mutual recognition agreements and other programmes relevant to registration as an architect in Australia
- by the AACA in the government and policy context to facilitate and support architects' engagement in industry best practice in order to be competitive globally.
- by consumers by providing more transparent and accessible information on the standards expected in the provision of architectural service delivery in Australia.

**KEY MESSAGES:**

1. Strength of National Consistency in the continued development of standards across all Australian states and Territories; achieved through an agreed harmonization of standards, processes and procedures between state-based entities to reduce the burden of regulation on business;
2. Continued development of excellence in Nationally accredited Architecture Education Programmes that promotes Australian higher education internationally.
3. To support the implementation of a new National Standard of Competency for Architects that underpins all assessment processes related to registration as an architect.

**OUTCOMES:**

The research outcomes will :

- provide an evidence base to support AACA, state and territory boards in providing advice to government on innovative regulatory policy.
- engage industry in the development of new and better standards, practices and processes designed to ensure an innovative and competitive regulatory environment.

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- contribute to the integrity of the State and Territory Architect Registration Boards role in protecting the public interest;

**Initial: (Collect)**

- Architecture Industry Profile in Australia – target 30 May 2015
- Updated Matrix of key provisions of Architects Legislation - complete
- *International Competency Standards & Qualification Framework Project* – target 30 May 2015

**Mid term (Connect)**

- Identify, map and promote research and data work by others that is relevant to the objectives of the AACA Research Strategy; including State & Territory Boards, universities, practice-based research and the like
- National Education and Competency Framework project mapping the National Competency Standard for Architects against external benchmarks such as the Australian Qualification Framework and European Qualification Framework.

**Ongoing: (Inform)**

- Leverage data collection to identify enhanced practice internally to AACA and support registration board activities
- Provide a knowledge base that supports the Implementation Strategies for National Competency Standards for Architects
- Commission and/or fund relevant research

**AUDIENCES:**

Primary: Registration Boards  
Secondary: Architects / Educators / Government / Industry  
Tertiary: International Registration Authorities

**PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:**

Primary: Registration Boards in States and Territories  
Secondary: Australian Institute of Architects / Association of Consulting Architects  
Universities, Australian Deans of the Built Environment and Design (ADBED)/  
Association of Architecture Schools of Australasia (AHASA)  
Tertiary: Commonwealth Government / International Registration Authorities

**AACA RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP:**

The AACA Research Work Group will provide advice to the AACA on implementation of the Strategy and on specific research projects as required. Members comprise four representatives from Architect Registration Boards around Australia.