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Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional
Affairs
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra. ACT. 2600

Dear Secretary,

**Supplementary Submission to Submission Number 16 in relation to
the *Draft Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards
(2009)***

I attended the Committee's Round Table public hearing on 7 April in
Melbourne, and now refer to comments made by some participants in
response to a question from the Chair regarding whether or not 'access
consultants' should be included in the 'example' list shown in Part 2.2 (3) of
the *Draft Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2009* that
reads:

*"A building developer, for a relevant building, is a person with responsibility
for, or control over, its design or construction.*

Example

The following persons could be building developers for these Standards:

- (a) property developers;*
- (b) property owners;*
- (c) building designers;*
- (d) builders;*
- (e) project managers;*
- (f) property lessees."*

Some of those comments referred to access consulting as being 'relatively
new', to professional risk indemnity, and to the lack of professional standing.

As previously indicated to the Committee by me (and maybe others),
members of the Association of Consultants in Access, Australia (ACAA) are

subject to very stringent peer review processes before they can achieve accreditation, a process that can ordinarily take up to 6 years. Before accreditation can be conferred, they are also required to provide evidence that they hold Professional Indemnity insurance cover, and to demonstrate prior participation in the Association's continuing professional development scheme (CPD) for a minimum of 3 years. Ongoing involvement in CPD is necessary to maintain accreditation.

I have already told the Committee, and would like to remind it, about ACAA's success in developing a training package for the construction and property services industries. That package has received ministerial sign-off. The package modules allow for training in access at both certificate and postgraduate levels.

At the Public Hearing held in Melbourne on 30 March I also advised that the number of local government authorities that impose upon planning and building applicants a requirement to furnish a 'compliance' report from an 'accredited access consultant', particularly those in New South Wales and Victoria, seems to be increasing at an exponential rate.

I wish to submit to the Committee for consideration the idea that it recommends to the Government that "ACAA accredited access consultants' is added to the 'example' list.

May I also ask a somewhat rhetorical question? What professional qualifications do property owners, property lessees or project managers need to hold?

Bob Kellow
7 April 2009