



Project 2.67 SBEnrc - ARC LP190110218

Constructing Building Integrity: Raising Standards through Professionalism

June 2021 - June 2024

This project aims to investigate the role of professions in rebuilding trust in residential building construction in Australia. In the wake of expensive and life-threatening building defects, this project expects to generate new knowledge about the functioning of individual professionals, professionals employed in multiprofession organisations, and professionals' interaction with their institutional environment. Expected outcomes include practical recommendations for improved professional standards, a rigorous building integrity system and a means for measuring change. Anticipated benefits include greater awareness by professions, trades and regulators of their role in delivering the public goods of a trustworthy construction industry.

Objectives

The specific objectives are to evaluate:

1. The professional standards of individual members of various professions and other occupation groups.
2. The professionalism that exists within emerging professions like building certifiers, and the potential for greater professionalisation to improve standards in these groups.
3. The professional standards of professional firms and multi-profession corporations employing those professions.
4. The means by which Australia's Building Integrity System (the construction industry's overall legal, regulatory, social and economic environment) may be developed to increase the likelihood that the building industry can live up to the values claimed.
5. The means by which recommended changes may be measured, with preliminary trialling of those measurements.

Industry Outcomes

1. The lack of confidence and trust in the building industry and in building products is jeopardising one of Australia's most critical industries. This research project directly confronts this challenge, by advancing theoretically sound and feasible means for professions to contribute to rebuilding trust in the construction industry.
2. Improved professional standards, a more rigorous building integrity system, and the means by which to measure impacts of change will assist professions, trades and regulators, individually and collectively, in delivering the public good of reliable buildings.
3. The outcomes will help the Australian industry create buildings that are well designed, constructed, and maintained as well as appreciated by their occupants. This will benefit local employment, investment and business opportunities, as well as bringing the social and cultural benefits associated with consumer and community confidence.



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