
Guidance Note 4

Continuing Professional Development

On 1 July 2020, an amendment to the Architectural Practice Act 2009 (SA) came into operation, to mandate Continuing Professional Development for architects in South Australia.

Continuing Professional Development

Support for national joint policy

The purpose of this note is to inform registered architects in South Australia that the Board has endorsed the national AACA/RAIA Joint Policy on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) 2006 for practising registered architects here.

Frequently Asked Questions

Following are some relevant excerpts (in italics) from the AACA/RAIA Joint statement:

Why is there a national uniform requirement for CPD?

The AACA and RAIA agree that there is undeniable benefit to the consumers and practitioners of architecture in Australia if all registered practising architects undertake CPD. To maintain national consistency these activities must be defined and accredited in a uniform manner throughout all the states in Australia in accordance with the current tenet of mutual recognition of architects' registration.

Under section 31A of the Architectural Practice Act 2009 (SA), compliance with CPD is a compulsory requirement for continued registration as an architect in South Australia. The Board regards engagement with CPD as an indication of an architect's currency of skills, knowledge and understanding which may be presented in countering any claim of unprofessional conduct.

The Boards governing registration of architects in all jurisdictions, except Northern Territory, require all registered architects to gain at least 20 points of CPD (10 formal and 10 informal) across at least two of the AACA competencies.

Individual requirements are determined by the responsible authority in the relevant jurisdiction.

What is the CPD framework?

The Framework is set out in the Joint Policy:

3.1 Acceptable CPD Activities

Acceptance of CPD activities shall be subject to the following principles.

CPD must:

- relate to practice as an architect*
- be additional to activities already undertaken in the normal course of an architect's practice or employment.*

3.2 Type of Activity

An effective CPD regime shall have as its basis the National Competency Standards Architecture NCSA 2021.

<http://www.aaca.org.au/publications/>

which prescribes standards in four units:of competency:

- Practice Management and professional conduct*
- Project Initiation and conceptual design*
- Detailed design and construction documentation*
- Design Delivery and construction services*

Each of these units is further divided into a detailed set of specific contexts, elements and performance criteria. Any accepted CPD activity must be contained within one or more of these units and address the relevant context, element and performance criteria.

3.3 Informal and formal CPD activity

Accepted CPD activity may comprise either:

- Formal CPD***
A learning activity with stated learning outcomes that is formally assessed or has significant interaction between presenter and learner.

or

- Informal CPD***
A learning activity with stated learning outcomes that involves no formal assessment process or significant interaction between presenter and learner.

What is the amount of acceptable CPD?

The minimum commitment to CPD by registered practising architects is 20 points per annum.

4.1 Relationship of points to category of activity

Points shall be allocated to specific activities through the process of accreditation. Points are accrued in a minimum of two competency units, as listed above in 3.2, per annum. The allocated points loading shall be made clear to those wishing to participate in an acceptable activity.

- *Formal and Informal CPD Activity: One point for every hour of involvement.*
- *Specific activities shall be allocated a discrete number of points, as appropriate.*

A minimum of 10 points must be for Formal CPD activities.

Recording CPD

4.3 A nationally consistent format of recording an architect's involvement and completion of acceptable CPD activities is required. The form of record shall be common across all jurisdictions that are engaged in mutual recognition of registration status.