

Factsheet

NSW ARCHITECTS WORKING INTERSTATE

All NSW architects intending to work in another Australian State or Territory must notify the relevant architect registration board before commencing work. If they do not do so, they may be breaking the law.

How does an architect lawfully work interstate?

There are two ways for an architect to lawfully work interstate, through:

- Mutual Recognition (MR), and
- Automatic Mutual Recognition - Automatic Deemed Registration (ADR).

Both MR and ADR allow an individual architect who is registered in NSW to work as an architect in another State or Territory without completing a formal assessment or examination.

If you are working interstate and using the word 'architect' to describe yourself (or its derivatives to describe your services) you must be registered in that State or Territory under MR or have notified the relevant architect registration board of your intention to work under ADR.

Should I use MR or ADR?

NSW architects who apply to work in another State or Territory should be aware that the NSW ARB will share information with other architect registration boards regarding your registration, including any disciplinary measures to which you may be subject. The NSW ARB will treat any information collected about you in line with relevant privacy legislation. You can read our [Privacy Management Plan here](#).

MR

Architects can work interstate under MR in any Australian State or Territory. MR enables an architect registered in one Australian State or Territory to obtain full registration in another State or Territory without completing a formal assessment or examination. The architect must pay a registration fee as part of the notification process and meet the registration requirements of the second State or Territory, including paying ongoing registration fees.

NSW architects intending to work interstate under MR should contact the architect registration board in the relevant State or Territory regarding notification requirements.

ADR

In May 2021, the Federal Government passed legislation on Automatic Mutual Recognition for many categories of occupational licenses in Australia, including registered architects. Under this scheme, Automatic Deemed Registration (ADR) enables an architect registered in one Australian State or Territory to work in another State or Territory without completing a formal assessment or examination.

An architect registered in NSW will be deemed to hold registration in the second State or Territory and does not pay an individual registration fee in the second State. ADR allows such an architect to work in the second State or Territory because the architect is registered in NSW.

Any condition or undertaking relevant to your registration in NSW also applies in any second State or Territory. For example, an architect who has signed an undertaking that they will not practise architecture in NSW must not practise architecture interstate either.

ADR has commenced for architects in NSW, Victoria, the ACT, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory. It has not been adopted in Queensland.

ADR does not apply to architects who wish to work as an architect in Queensland (because ADR has not been adopted in that State) or New Zealand, or to architects relying on registration in another country.

NSW architects intending to work interstate under ADR must, before commencing work as an architect in another State or Territory, contact the architect registration board in that State or Territory regarding notification requirements. If notification requirements of the other State or Territory are not met, the architect will not be entitled to work in the other State or Territory under ADR.

Key elements of ADR

- 1. You must notify the relevant architect registration board of your intention to work in that State or Territory before you commence work.**
- 2. You must maintain registration in NSW. If your NSW registration ceases, your entitlement to work interstate under ADR will likewise cease.** Eligibility for ADR requires that architects are registered in a State or Territory of Australia. Under [section 42A](#) of the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992*, home State is defined as your principal place of residence or work. If you retire or change your registration category in your NSW, you must notify the relevant architect registration board(s) at that time.
- 3. ADR only applies to individuals; it does not apply to businesses.** If you are working interstate through a corporation, partnership or other unincorporated association of persons you may need to separately register your business entity (and pay the applicable fee). You should seek advice from the relevant architect registration board regarding requirements for that State or Territory.
- 4. You must maintain Professional Indemnity (PI) insurance appropriate for the architectural services being provided.** You should seek advice from the relevant architect registration board regarding appropriate PI insurance requirements for that State or Territory.
- 5. You must be aware of, and comply with, the relevant laws in the States and Territories in which you work.** If necessary, you should seek planning and legal advice on how to comply with relevant laws.

Disciplinary action

MR

Under MR, if an architect's registration in the second State is cancelled or suspended or is subject to a condition because of disciplinary action, the architect's first State registration is affected in the same way. However, the architect's first State architect registration board may reinstate the registration or waive any such conditions in the first State. Note that the cancellation/suspension/condition will remain in place in the second State.

ADR

Under ADR, architects who are subject to civil, criminal or disciplinary action in any State related to their architectural practice, or who have conditions imposed on their registration as a result of such action, will not be eligible to work interstate as an architect under ADR. Disciplinary action will affect the architect's ADR in any other State, as well as their registration in NSW. These architects must obtain registration under MR if they wish to work in another State or Territory.

Additional resources

Australian Government – Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

- [Improving occupational mobility](#)

NSW Government

- [Making it easier for registered professionals to work interstate | NSW Government](#)
- [Interstate and New Zealand licences | NSW Fair Trading](#)

Architect registration boards

- [Architects Registration Board of Victoria](#)
- [Australian Capital Territory Architects Board](#)
- [Architectural Practice Board of South Australia](#)
- [Architects Board of Western Australia](#)
- [Board of Architects of Tasmania](#)
- [Northern Territory Architects Board](#)
- [Board of Architects Queensland](#)

Disclaimer

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