

## Self-assessment questions

---

# Systemic risks in the Australian architecture sector – insights from 2024 focus groups

This session is equivalent to 1.0 hour of Formal CPD.

In 2024, the NSW Architects Registration Board (NSW ARB) partnered with the Architects Registration Board of Victoria (ARBV) to interrogate the [2022 research findings](#) on systemic compliance issues and associated risks affecting regulation of the architecture profession in Australia. A series of focus groups were conducted with NSW and Victorian representatives from across the sector, including architects, industry bodies, clients, developers, builders, building surveyors, insurers, academics, government agencies and other regulatory bodies. The focus groups were structured as “deep dives” on key themes including:

- client-architect relationships and agreements
- design and construct (D & C) procurement
- compliance with the National Construction Code (NCC), and
- disruptive change.

The final report, *Deep Dive into Systemic Risks in the Australian Architecture Sector*, is available to download from the Resource library on the NSW ARB website [here](#). A one page overview is [here](#).

This webinar presents the the findings of the focus group “deep dives” and is designed to provide some guidance on the proactive steps that architects can take to mitigate their exposure to risks and liability.

It delivers learning outcomes related to the following Performance Criterion from the [2021 National Standard of Competency for Architects](#):

**PC 1 Comply with the regulatory requirements and obligations pertaining to practice as an architect, including legislation, professional codes of conduct, obligations for continuing professional development and professional indemnity insurance.**

## Certificate of completion

The NSW ARB will email you a certificate of completion based on your participation in today’s session. You should upload the certificate of completion together with your responses to this self-assessment questionnaire as a single pdf file when you record the activity as Formal CPD in the **My CPD** portal in [My Account](#)

(NOTE maximum file size for upload is 3MB)

# Self-assessment questions

## Systemic risks in the Australian architecture sector – insights from 2024 focus groups

Participant name: \_\_\_\_\_ NSW registration no: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. What is a systemic risk?**

---

---

---

**2. List the 4 key systemic risks that were investigated through the focus group “deep dives” with industry.**

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Identify factors that impact on client-architect relationships that architects should consider (identify all relevant).**

- a. Type of procurement processes
- b. The use of standardised versus bespoke agreements
- c. How the fee structure is determined (i.e. fixed or percentage fees)
- d. All of the above

**4. True or False: The systemic risks research indicates that D & C procurement has very little impact on the level of control over detail in the architectural documentation and the translation of the design into the built outcome.**

- a. True
- b. False

**5. Which of the following statements concerning D & C contracts is true following from the systemic risks research:**

- a. D & C contracts allocate risk and liability on architects potentially to secure project finance, but these can be covered under insurance.
- b. D & C contracts contain risks that can largely be negotiated due to the architect’s leverage.
- c. D & C contracts shift risk and liability onto architects and it can be hard to negotiate favourable changes, which may impact on architects’ insurance.
- d. B and C

6. **True or False: It is vital for architectural documentation to be compliant with the NCC, despite circumstances where only limited design documentation is required.**
- a. True
  - b. False
7. **Does the type of construction contract used for a NSW project ever impact an architect's obligation to comply with the NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct? What should you do?**

---

---

---

---

8. **Following from the systemic risks research, architects can assist themselves to address disruptive change in which of the following ways (identify all relevant):**
- a. Build practical skills to respond to disruptive change in a cost-effective way.
  - b. Develop further knowledge around AI and developing technology to understand the changing nature of how architectural services are performed.
  - c. Understand and gain a greater ability to respond to climate change, as this will impact on the practice in a positive way.
  - d. Climate change and AI are conspiracies which have no impact on the construction industry or architectural practice.
9. **Going forward, architects should consider the following to help traverse the systemic risks identified by the NSW ARB and ARBV research (identify all relevant):**
- a. There is nothing to be done by industry bodies or the government to address systemic risks in the Australian architecture sector.
  - b. Architects should commit to regulatory compliance and use professional standards to assist them to navigate current market conditions, systemic risks and disruptive change.
  - c. There is nothing that can be done by architects to better handle client-architect relationships.
  - d. The main systemic risks to watch out for are NCC compliance, disruptive forces, procurement models and the client-architect relationship.