

Guidance about referencing architectural qualifications

ARBV Guidance about referencing architectural qualifications to avoid making representations that contravene the Architects Act.

Unregistered and uninsured persons cannot work as an architect in Victoria. The Architects Act 1991 (the Act) prohibits 'holding out' or representing unregistered persons or bodies to be an architect or as providing architectural services. Care must be taken when describing or presenting information about unregistered staff on websites, professional networking sites and on social media. Those who engage in prohibited conduct may be prosecuted by the ARBV.

For information on the Legal Framework please refer to our Fact Sheet **Guidance for Prohibited Conduct - Legal Framework**.

Scenario: I have completed a degree or a Masters in Architecture but I am not registered as an architect in Victoria.

What can I say about my qualifications? Can I use my post-nominals (B. Arch, M. Arch)?

You may reference your qualifications without committing an offence in circumstances where this does not amount to a representation that you are an architect or provide the services of an architect.

For example, if you are working for a building design company, referring to your qualifications might imply that you are an architect or that your employer's business provides architectural services. If there is any risk of misapprehension, it is recommended that any reference to your qualifications is accompanied by a sufficiently prominent disclaimer (i.e. of equal prominence) that makes it clear that you are not an architect and that you are not providing the services of an architect via your employer.