



## **BUILDING NOTE**

Number 73

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### **DRAFT PREMISES STANDARD**

#### **Purpose**

To advise building practitioners and building owners that the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs has now invited submissions addressing the terms of reference of its inquiry into the draft of the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards.

#### **Background**

On 3 December, a draft of the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards, together with a number of associated documents was tabled in the Commonwealth House of Representatives by the Attorney-General. The draft Premises Standards has been referred to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for it to conduct consultations and to report to Parliament in the first half of 2009.

The terms of reference are reproduced below

#### ***Terms of Reference***

*The Committee is to consider and report on the draft Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards covering:*

- 1. the appropriateness and effectiveness of the proposed Premises Standards in achieving their objects;*
- 2. the interaction between the Premises Standards and existing regulatory schemes operating in state and territory jurisdictions, including the appropriateness and effectiveness of the proposed Model Process to Administer Building Access for People with Disability;*
- 3. whether the Premises Standards will have an unjustifiable impact on any particular sector or group within a sector; and*
- 4. any related matters.*

#### **Comment**

The existing technical requirements of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) relating to access for people with disabilities may not satisfy the requirements of the Commonwealth's *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA). These differences can give rise to potential inconsistencies and uncertainty and the Premises Standards are intended to provide technical solutions that will satisfy the DDA.

When the draft Premises Standards are finalised, it is proposed to incorporate the premises standard into BCA to align with the DDA.

The draft Premises Standards can be accessed online at [www.ag.gov.au/premisesstandards](http://www.ag.gov.au/premisesstandards)

Submissions addressing the terms of reference of the Standing Committee's inquiry into the draft Standards close on **Friday 13 February 2009** and should be made direct to the committee at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/disabilitystandards/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/disabilitystandards/index.htm).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Gow', written in a cursive style.

**Peter Gow**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BUILDING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT**

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