

YOUR GUIDE TO
ACA
MEMBERSHIP



Association of Consulting Architects
The Business of Architecture



ACA MEMBERSHIP

At the Association of Consulting Architects (ACA), our core aim is simple — to help architectural practices run their businesses well. Whether you're a sole practitioner, small studio or a large firm, ACA membership gives you access to practical tools, expert advice, and a supportive professional network, so you can focus on what matters most — delivering great architecture.

Here is a snippet of benefits you'll enjoy as a member:

- Business-focused resources to help you stay on top of employment awards, industry trends, and best practice.
- A connected community, with opportunities to engage, share insights and advocate for the profession through our digital channels and events.
- Specialist support, including email advisory services on business operations, HR, contracts, and financial matters.
- The ACA Time Cost Calculator, helping you understand the real costs of running your practice.
- CPD events on business issues, delivered live and on demand to fit your schedule.

A photograph of a woman with long, wavy grey hair, smiling broadly and looking towards a man whose back is to the camera. She is wearing a dark blue patterned top. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting with other people.

ACA MEMBERSHIP

ABOUT THE ACA

The ACA leads the national conversation on business and employment matters in Australian architecture practice.

We are a registered employer body under the Fair Work Commission and are responsible for negotiating the Architects Award on behalf of business owners.

We help architectural firms navigate practice's evolving landscape through regular advice on business and employment matters, promoting awareness of key issues, and advocating for better business practices and legislative frameworks.

Through this leadership, support and advocacy, the ACA ensures the profession's long-term health while supporting architecture's vital contribution to our cities, environments, communities and cultures.

LEADERSHIP



Angelina Pillai
CEO



Paul Viney
National President

NATIONAL NETWORK

Our branches span all states and territories, each bringing a distinct local focus to their activities. Branch committees include architects from a range of practice sizes and types, bringing diverse perspectives and expertise through their voluntary participation.

These committees tackle business issues that individual practices often lack time or resources to address alone, while also assisting members facing challenges that could impact the entire profession.

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The role of the ACA is to cut through the noise, present clear and practical solutions, and advocate for policies that ensure a sustainable, ethical and thriving architectural profession.

—
PAUL VINEY

ACA NATIONAL PRESIDENT



SHAPING THE INDUSTRY

The ACA leads the discussion:

- Through ACA's leadership within Australian Construction Industry Forum (ACIF), we ensure architectural practices are represented as part of the broader construction industry in national discussions on policy, productivity, standards and reform.
- Engaging with key thinkers to identify and address business issues and trends affecting architecture practices.
- Undertaking our own research — including regular Pulse Checks and the ACA National Salary Survey – and connecting you with relevant research elsewhere.
- Conducting a dedicated national program for the Business of Small Practice, a forum designed to build the business capabilities of emerging and small practices.
- Leading the development of an Architects Mental Wellbeing Forum (AMWF) in Australia, a supportive community in each state where practitioners share knowledge, experiences, research and strategies to improve mental health in the profession.

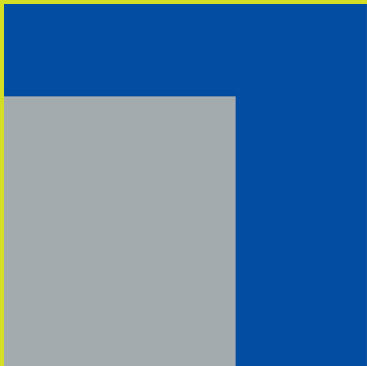


ACA MEMBERSHIP

ADVISORY SERVICES



The ACA Advisory provides members with access to specialist industrial relations, legal, human resources and business management advice from our expert partners at no additional cost.



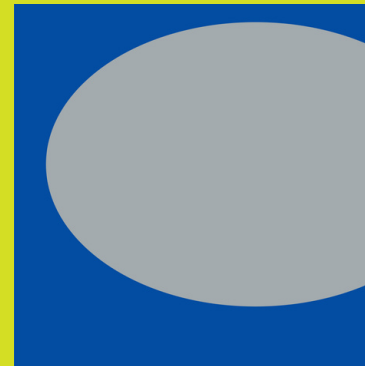
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ADVISORY

Free consultation (up to 15 minutes) to members on industrial relations and employment matters by Fair Work Lawyers.



LEGAL ADVISORY

Free legal advice (up to 15 minutes) from Christopher Larcos at Larcos Law.



BUSINESS ADVISORY

Email advisory service on financial and business management support from Management for Design.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Free consultation (up to 15 minutes) with a Catalina Consultants HR specialist on a range of matters related to people management and workplace culture.

ADVOCACY

The ACA is your proactive advocate, delivering real results through strategic engagement across all levels of government and industry. We don't just represent your concerns – we actively drive change through:

POLICY INFLUENCE

Shaping regulatory outcomes through our relationships with the Offices of the Government Architect and regular ministerial meetings in each state and territory.

AMPLIFIED VOICE

Collaborating with all major industry peak bodies, including ACIF, Consult Australia, the AIA, AILA and PIA to drive sector-wide advocacy with a consistent, coherent message.

DIRECT ACCESS

Regular engagement with key decision-makers at local, state and federal levels, making targeted submissions to relevant inquiries and speaking up on matters that affect your practice.

BUSINESS PROTECTION

Targeted advocacy on critical issues like procurement processes and contract fairness, saving you time, resources and worry while protecting your bottom line.

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Direct access to Macquarie Bank's macroeconomic analysis and forecasting – intelligence that typically costs thousands to obtain independently.

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ACA ADVOCACY

**FREE AUSTRALIAN
STANDARDS
OUR ADVOCACY
PAYS OFF!**

ACA ADVOCACY

**LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY
PETITION
OPPOSITION TO
ABOLISHMENT OF
THE ARBV**

ACA ADVOCACY

**DRAFT NSW
BUILDING BILL MAY
HAVE UNINTENDED
CONSEQUENCES FOR
OUR PROFESSION
AND THE SAFETY OF
CONSUMERS**



RESOURCES



Gain a decisive advantage with the ACA Business Toolbox – our member-only suite of tools, contracts and model documents that transform how you operate your practice in today's challenging market.

ACA BUSINESS TOOLBOX

The Toolbox includes:

- NEW! AI Business Concierge
- ACA Architects' Time/Cost Calculator
- ACA Salary Calculator
- Model employment agreements
- Model HR policies
- Safe Design Proforma
- Short Form Client Architect Agreement
- Professional Services Subcontract
- Business Continuity and Crisis Management Plan
- Site Inspection Roof Access Checklist

MENTAL WELLBEING

Mental wellbeing within the architecture profession – and its effect on business operations – is more important than ever. The ACA acknowledges the significance of safeguarding both your own mental wellbeing and that of your employees. It provides several pertinent articles and resources, including access to an affordable Employee Assistance Program and the creation of Architects Mental Wellbeing Forums across Australia.

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When you see an IR alert or a new legislation update pop up in your inbox as part of our timely and reliable information offering, we are not merely reporting on the outcomes or ‘keeping you in the loop’. Rest assured, we have been behind the scenes working tirelessly to ensure your needs as firms are being represented fairly and sensibly. Our firm belief is that when employers are thriving, it benefits all.

—
ANGELINA PILLAI, ACA CEO

ACA MEMBERSHIP



COST

WHAT'S THE COST?

Fees amount to less than a cup of coffee per staff member per week! Membership is open to all practices offering the services of registered architects to the wider community and is open to all corporate structures, from sole traders to listed companies.

ACA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027

Subscription rates are based on the number of full-time equivalent technical staff* as follows (ex GST):

- \$410.00 base fee
- + \$98 per staff member (2–30)
- + \$65 per staff member (31–60)
- + \$33 per staff member (61–100)

For example, a 10-person practice pays \$1,292 annually, a 20-person practice pays \$2,272, and a 50-person practice pays \$4,552.

Download the 12-month membership fee schedule [here](#).

*Technical staff are defined as: principal-architect, principal-non-architect, registered architect, graduates of architecture, students of architecture, technicians/draftspersons, interior designers, town planners, urban planners, landscape architects, graphic designers, regular office-based contractors.

ACA MEMBERSHIP



**IF YOU RUN A PRACTICE,
YOU NEED THE ACA.
YOUR PRACTICE IS OUR BUSINESS.**

GET IN TOUCH

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JOIN TODAY



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