



## Certifier Case Study: Nathan Halstead

Managing director of AE&D, Nathan Halstead, says one of the best things about his role is the mix of people and developments he works with.

“Our staff provide a positive attitude to our company,” he says. “Plus we work with developments where our input and advice makes a positive difference to the outcome of the project, whether that provides cost savings or enables innovative design solutions.”

Nathan operates as an Accredited Certifier Building - Grade A1 Unrestricted and Fire Engineering Compliance - Grade C10. He is a Principal Building Surveyor and Fire Engineer within his company's structure.

Carrying a Graduate Diploma in Building Fire Safety & Risk Engineering from Victoria University, a Masters of Building Surveying from UWS, a Masters of Environmental Engineering & Management from UTS, and an Associate Diploma in Health & Building Surveying from Sydney Institute of Technology, Nathan has worked with NSW National Parks, the Olympic Coordination Authority and another private national certification company.



The 36 year old says the profession faces a number of challenges.

“Ever changing regulations and building codes pose an ongoing challenge,” he explains.

“We [also need to] build a sound reputation - one recognised by other similar professionals, as well as the general public.

“Another challenge involves broader industry accreditation for all professionals and contractors within the building industry, similar to the Victorian system, which will improve the quality of buildings and provide better outcomes for the building industry.”

Recognising that the industry must attract good professional people in order to be sustainable, Nathan believes a diverse range of work is an important part of career progression.

“[New entrants should] undertake a traineeship in local government as a building surveyor to understand the fundamental basis for local government and its functions in society and to learn about the basis of the certification system from a public perspective; or, seek a graduate position in a private firm [to] expand [the knowledge base] and receive the training and application of the building regulations necessary to progress to a Grade A1 unrestricted.

“[Young certifiers can] develop within that company or move to another private company that offers diversity – [as] working on certification projects only [can limit] knowledge of the necessary building regulations and other principles of the building surveying industry. Councils can also offer good career progression, particularly as the accreditation of council officers has now been implemented.”

Nathan believes the future for the private certification industry is in the hands of all private certifiers.



“We need to remain professional and ensure our services continue to be recognised and appropriately rewarded,” he says.

“The work of the AAC and AIBS is key to this future; both organisations have implemented excellent training programs and career advice, particularly over the past two or three years.

“We also need to recruit young, enthusiastic and motivated people to ensure the profession’s longevity. That future will be strong and rewarding if we remain professional and stay up to date with the rapidly changing building industry.”