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IN OTHER NEWS

User Friendly?



If you are going to put money into training do a law degree.

When you attempt to read the amendments to the 2010 Gazette notice the Board has posted you will see what we mean.

Only a lawyer could write this:

*(2) Any term or expression that is defined in the Act that is used but not defined in this notice has the same meaning as in the Act.*

Points



It's all about points.

The Board and training providers have been trying to figure out the worth of a point.

Is a point worth an hour, is a point worth \$30.00, and is a point worth anything?

Who knows but we have to purchase points to get licensed. So to us a point is worth money, time, and our livelihood if we don't get any.

We have effectively been chucked a loyalty point's scheme where if

## Continuing Pile Dung (CPD)



Well it's finally happened - the Minister has signed off on Master Plumbers Continuing Professional Development scheme which the Board put forward and they have now Gazetted it.

So what's changed? – Effectively nothing. We now have 25% of “points” being able to be self directed – so essentially common sense will prevail for 25% of the time. The rest of the time (75%) will be more about buying points and dollars crossing hands than anything remotely protecting the health and safety of the New Zealand public.

Lets look back at what has occurred:

- We had a Continuing Professional Development scheme which wasn't fit for purpose, in other words it was a failure, but it was still imposed on Gasfitters, without statutory authority, under the 1976 Act.
- The same scheme was carried over to the 2006 Act and imposed on plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers and continued to be a failure.
- The Board *Couldn't Provide Direction* (CPD) and parts of the industry opposed the Board's implementation of the scheme.
- The Minister, Maurice Williamson stated in public that CPD was bullshit, not working and had no respect.
- The Board consulted with the industry trying to introduce "hours" as a condition of a license renewal and the Board's proposal was rejected by the majority of those who made a submission.
- The Board re-consulted this time returning to "points" based upon hours and yet again the majority of respondents rejected the Board's proposals, however a minority of respondents with vested interests supported the scheme as it was their recommendation.
- The Board sided with the minority (as it suited them,) and recommended the scheme to the Minister who has since signed off on the scheme and now it is Gazetted, but not as new notice - as an amendment to the 2010 notice, just to add confusion.

## Colossal Political Decision (CPD)



This is effectively what the Minister and Board have said to the industry. They have implemented a scheme which the Minister publicly stated was bullshit and had no respect and now expect us to abide by it and respect it and them.

The Minister could have stopped this nonsense, yet he has made a Colossal Political Decision and has signed for the scheme to be reinstated with minor changes.

The Minister of flip flop strikes again!

you support the supplier, training provider or Board you get points.

Maybe the Board should have explored getting FlyBuys Points.

#### Dialog



The Federation has asked for a meeting with the Minister to discuss the issues in the industry and to get change.

One thing is for sure we are not going to back down on these issues and if the Board and Minister are too stupid to see that then it will be at a cost to them.

We are happy to discuss issues to get change but we are not going to go to meetings to be dictated to or to have smoke blown up our arse.

We want to know your views so send them to us.

Take action now before the situation in the industry reaches a point of no return.

#### From the News

We see in the Dominion Post today an article about a couple who ended up with dodgy plumbing done on a bathroom.

The article refers to the guy who did the plumbing as an "unqualified plumber". Perhaps he should have been referred to as a guy who did plumbing illegally.

We view it that you are either a qualified plumber or you are not.

Being unqualified at something doesn't link you to that profession. For example if you are not a brain surgeon can you be referred to as an unqualified brain surgeon?

If you are not a politician can you be referred to as an unqualified politician - whoops, perhaps you could be as that's most of them.

## Continually Protects Deceit (CPD)

This is yet another example of the Board's tactic to shut the industry down and enforce their will on us.

The majority opposing the scheme has not swayed their decision at all and the Board continues on with their arrogant self important behavior.

They have failed to use Memorandum Accounts until they accumulated sufficient funds and now they are implementing a scheme the industry doesn't want. (Here's an idea – perhaps the entire Board could UPSKILL themselves on Memorandum Account keeping – and re-acquaint themselves with the OAG's report to see what else was recommended that they might have missed).

Is it just arrogance or is there some hidden agenda? This Board and Minister seem to demand respect and expect us to bow and scrape to their every decision.



## Conspiracy Producing Dollars (CPD)



What is to be gained by forcing a scheme on people who do not support it? In this case money and position.

The people who recommended the scheme are one of the biggest training providers to the industry. They even have a company called Plumbing Gasfitting and Drainlaying CPD Limited.

Have a close look at the Board and see how many Board members

own or are involved in the supply of training.

Is all this pay back for those who supported the Board when the Regulations Review Committee recommended the disallowance of regulations imposed by the Board?

This is disgusting behavior from the so called professionals we should be able to trust.

One other thing to watch as we move forward – the Board is trying to fund a shortfall of income next year when gas certificate sales will no longer be available to them. 75% of CPD points have to come from "Board accredited" courses. What will the cost be to get a course "Board accredited"? We're betting it rises substantially.

From memory the Board did indicate in some documentation supplied to us that it would be in excess of \$3,000.00 to get a course accredited in real terms.

The real question should be – what courses will they accredit and on what basis?

If there is a NEED for them, then all practitioners should have to do ALL the courses in their particular discipline. If they continue to accredit weak and pointless courses then there will be an uproar.

Again we make it clear we are not against upskilling – but we are again "purchasing points" for the sake of it, and making practitioners in this country attend courses like a mouse on a wheel with no real outcome or justification and no measurable difference to the public's health and safety.