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IN OTHER NEWS

This is a dead fish



This is a dead fish and is unresponsive a bit like:

- the Minister who is unresponsive to the concerns of the industry
- the Office of the Auditor General who seem to think the Board's activities are okay
- the Charities Commission who still haven't made a decision as to if the Board is a Registered Charity or not
- the Social Services Committee who haven't responded regarding the petition submitted earlier in the year and
- the Regulations Review Committee who are flip flopping with their decisions

What's Being Said in the Halls of Parliament ...



Someone has been gobbing off in Parliament with this appearing in the NZ Herald:

SORT THIS ONE, MURRAY One of the great below-the-surface political battles of recent years has been between the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Board and some of those it regulates.

There have been petitions, legal threats, furious lobbying and much more. Now, Murray Burns has been appointed to sort out the mess. While Burns has a long history of dealing with the dark politics of the health sector, he'll have his work cut out.

This response was posted:

Re: Sort this one, Murray: Is this government reverting to recruiting "Hit men" to take on anyone who disagrees with them? Mr Allan Bickers was appointed as Chairperson of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board and stated in Napier at a Public Meeting "watch this space" - Does this mean Mr Burns is taking that space?

There is no argument that the plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying industry is in a mess but that can't be blamed on the tradespeople but is squarely the responsibility of those governing and regulating the industry. All that is happening now is that the industry is sick of being bullied and the incompetence of those appointed by the government to regulate the industry.

Some thought Mr Bickers was the "saviour" who was going to rescue us all from the incompetence of the past and he even said that if the Minister lost confidence in him he would resign.

Now Mr Burns is rumoured to be here to sort it all out. Are the dark clouds an indication of a storm?

Welcome Mr Burns - the expectations are very high for you and the Federation is more than happy to meet with you sooner rather than later.

We understand Mr Burns has an accountancy qualification – we hope this is put to good use in assisting the PGDB in implementing Memorandum Accounts so we can REALLY see where our money is going.

Charities



Charities do some good work in our communities and throughout the world and have to hold out their hands for people to donate money so they can achieve their purpose.

There are some very worthy charities that all have their costs to cover so we thought we would look at some of the costs for our charity - the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board.

Last year the Board collected \$4,490,238.00. Of that 49.99% was spent on administration, 6.11% was spent on governance, 21.49% was spent on registration, discipline and prosecutions, 16.5% was held in reserves and 5.89% was spent on people's competence by way of examinations.

So if we used these figures with a normal charity for every dollar donated 49.99 cents would be spent on administration, 6.11 cents would be spent on governance of that administration, 21.49 cents would be spent on legal issues, 16.5 cents would be held in the bank for a rainy day and 5.89 cents would be spent on the purpose of the charity e.g. starving children.

We know that if only 5.89 cents of every dollar was getting to the children then we wouldn't be donating to that charity.

Stepping it up.

The Federation this week sent this to Police National Headquarters:

Good afternoon. I was wanting to speak with someone regarding the upcoming visit of Prince

Judge for yourself



There have been a number of situations over the years where we believe the actions of the Board and employees have either been carried out in bad faith or incompetently, and nothing has been done about it. You judge for yourself.

- Continued Professional Development (CPD) implemented under the 1976 Act without statutory authority. Our judgement -

Incompetence/ Acting in Bad Faith

- People being refused practicing licences due to having insufficient CPD points when the system had no statutory authority. Your judgement - **Incompetence / Acting in Bad Faith**
- The same CPD system being carried over to the 2006 Act and implemented without statutory authority. Your judgement - **Incompetence / Acting in Bad Faith**
- A Board contractor laying 44 particulars of offence against a tradesman and only proving 2 particulars (which are questionable). Your judgement - **Incompetence / Acting in Bad Faith**
- Over \$150,000 being spent to prosecute two particulars of offence. Your judgement - **Incompetence / Acting in Bad Faith**
- Letters being sent out from the Board during the course of the discipline process, which contained false information about the accused. Your judgement - **Incompetence / Acting in Bad Faith**
- The Board collecting a discipline levy that went beyond the scope of their statutory authority. Your judgement - **Incompetence / Acting in Bad Faith**
- The Board continuing to collect that same levy knowing it was beyond their statutory authority after the Regulations Review Committee (RRC) found they had no authority. Your judgement - **Incompetence / Acting in Bad Faith**
- The Board collecting a discipline levy for the specific purpose of discipline but putting the levy into general funds when the RRC, Treasury AND the Office of the Auditor General advised the funds should be put into Memorandum Accounts. Your judgement - **Incompetence / Acting in Bad Faith**
- Using the Discipline levy to build up general reserves \$1.3 million and above, which effectively is a tax on the industry. Your judgement - **Incompetence / Acting in Bad Faith**

We could go on all day but you be the judge are they Incompetent or Acting in Bad Faith?

And what judgement befalls those who continue to protect this Board when they are working so sloppily, and without any respect or regard for those that fund them? The Minister and his staff at DBH who continue to back this Board should be ashamed of themselves.

If They Know Charge Them



We see a man, currently from Paraparaumu, was fined \$3,800 and ordered to pay Court costs and solicitors' fees for carrying out sanitary plumbing at a home in Paraparaumu Beach when not registered or licensed, contrary to the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act

Charles. This is regarding peaceful protest during the visit. The protest is not directed at Prince Charles but is to draw attention to the governance of Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers in New Zealand.

We await their reply



Dear editor: I have an issue with the legislation imposed on us and that we are not able to get definitive answers to questions.

It seems to me that the interpretations of what the pieces of legislation mean are left up to us the tradespeople; everyone else hides behind the cloak of not being able to give advice.

It is more akin to a minefield, presided over by the people who plant the mines and make a business out of forcing the tradesman to run the gauntlet of their minefield.

If we had a level playing field with transparency where open and honest opinions are shared to allow you to carry out your work this would be a far better country to live in.

ED: Well said. There seems to be a huge problem with people making decision and then believing they don't have to justify why they made the decision.

Gotta Laugh

Editor you must be getting depressed with all this shit the Board puts our way so here is something to brighten your day:

A driver is stuck in a traffic jam in Wellington.

Nothing is moving!

Suddenly, a man knocks on the car window. The

2006.

The Board's Deputy Registrar, Kern U'ren, said:

"There are serious health and safety risks associated with sanitary plumbing carried out by an unauthorised person. Any defective plumbing work has the potential to cause disease and serious damage to the home and in this case, the poor workmanship led to flooding, structural damage and damage to electrical circuits."

"The toilet leaked raw sewerage onto the floor due to incorrect installation of the pan stump. Further, the bathroom had a combined waste that had been incorrectly installed so that foul water released from the bath flowed back up through the shower waste. This was further exacerbated when the shower waste leaked into the ceiling space and then into the downstairs area resulting in structural damage and damage to electrical circuits."

We ask the question "Can people who permit or pay people to do sanitary plumbing, knowing they are not qualified, be prosecuted?" (We are not saying that in this case the people knew).

Well it seems they possibly could under section 125 (1) (b) of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 which states:

Every person commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.00 who – knowingly permits or pays any person to do any sanitary plumbing or drainlaying in breach of section 8 or 10.

Any law enforcement officer will tell you that to prevent an offence you take away the source of the problem, for example with drug related offences you take away the drugs, with alcohol related offences you take away the alcohol, and take away the market for unqualified trades people and you have a winner!

It seems to us that you take away the source of the problem - the people wanting to get a super cheap job done - it would help the industry as a whole.

Perhaps the Board should redirect some of its efforts and make an example of some of the source problems. Prosecute a couple of the people who permit or pay people to do sanitary plumbing, knowing they are not qualified and make an example of them.

Word would soon get around to the public to keep it legal and only used authorised people. Perhaps it would also deter those who deserve what they get from laying complaints which are resolved at our expense.

Will they ever get there



driver rolls down his window and asks "What's going on"?

"Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers down the road have kidnapped all the members of Parliament, and they're asking for changes in the industry and \$10 million in ransom to cover legal costs otherwise, they're going to douse them with petrol and set them on fire!"

"We're going from car to car taking up a collection".

The driver asks "How much is everyone giving, on average"?

The man replies "Most people are giving about four litres!"

Reminder

Don't forget about attending the Boards consultation meetings in Wellington and Palmerston North Next week and Hamilton and Tauranga the following week.

Go and have your say.

Next Week

Credibility and why change must happen for us as an industry to be able to move forward.

The Boards "our way or the highway" attitude must stop.

So what are you going to do about it?

The Board put new meaning into the saying "good things take time". If it's true, then the industry is in for the most exceptional governance the world has ever seen because it's taking one hell of a lot of time for them to achieve anything! Not only that, when they do, circumstances have changed and what they have done isn't worth anything.

Will the Board every get there and become the trusted respected Board that they aspire to be? Given their current attitudes and tactics we don't think so, which is really quite surprising when you look at their impressive CV's and the skills they purport to have. Perhaps their heart isn't in it and it's just another job to put on their corporate CV's, and another ticket to clip to gain some more "Board Fees".

The True Cost of CPD



There have been various claims about the cost of CPD and licensing and the Federation sticks to its clam of close to \$4,500 per year for a person with two licences - but this is not where the costs stop.

What are the economic costs to the country by way of down time? What are the costs to the industry that are incurred by the Board for implementing CPD? What are the costs of any mandatory training the Board implements such as legislation upgrades – they'll have course development costs, facilitation costs, venues etc.,

so where is all that money coming from?

The current increases proposed by the Board are only the beginning.

We are keen to hear from you what you think of the latest Gazetted notice around CPD. Are you on your way to buying the sufficient number of points you need to re-licence next year, do you think the system is a joke – and do you feel you were listened to in the round of consultation over CPD? We want to hear from you!

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