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IN OTHER NEWS

Letter to the Editor



Dear Mr Editor

After reading the statement Mr Bickers supplied in last week's info brief from the Board I feel somewhat surprised he is still the Chairman of the PGDB.

First of all as you have correctly pointed out, his accusation that Wal Gordon and the Federation were behind the complaint is incorrect.

Secondly, is Mr Bickers somehow laying blame to an outside group or individual for their tax avoidance?

A competent Chairman would have known that the Board is not a charity. (You would only need to ask any tradesperson

The Charities Commission Decision



Lots of feedback this week on the Charities Commission decision which the Board released last week, when the Chairman of the Board appeared to lay blame for their decisions with Wal

Gordon and the Federation and you probably guessed it - that most people agree with the Commission's decision.

Those of us who have been engaging with the Board for a while know they are very predictable and that the Board, being the Board, they will probably appeal the decision for whatever reason.

The discussion in the trench today was about what it meant for the Board and what authority the Board has to be a charity, but the biggest question was on what authority the Board is spending the industry's money on legal battles to be a charity. In other words where does the liability lie?

We have professionals obtaining a professional fee who should be doing a professional job and if they choose to deviate from the legal pathway then the responsibility should be theirs personally. They have some protection under section 171(1)(a) of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 for any act done, or omitted to be done, in the course of the exercise or intended exercise of any of their functions, duties, or powers under this Act. So is being a charity or being a charity officer one of their functions?

When you look at the functions of the Board and through the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 it doesn't mention anything about being a charity or performing any type of charitable purpose. So it will be interesting to see what liability there is with the Charity Officers who happen to be the Board members.

Are we as an industry going to pay for court action to defend a charitable status that is not authorised by the Act? Should it in fact be the officers of the charity paying for it as they took responsibility as charity officers? It seems to us being a charity officer has nothing to do with the functions of the Board or a responsibility as a Board member.

Likewise if legal action is taken against a Board member or employee for acting in bad faith or not taking reasonable care, who should be paying for their defence? Why should it be the industry - as these are so called professionals and as such they should not leave themselves in a position where accusations are made against them?

It seems very strange to us that the Board claims to be a charity but

that). So did Mr Bickers know that the Board wasn't entitled to a charitable status and did nothing to rectify the situation, or is he that incompetent that he didn't know?

Where is his C.E.O. in all of this?

What does the Minister think?

Whatever the answers are, this still clearly shows the level of deviousness entrenched within this Board that has plagued our industry for near on ten years.

Once again the info brief is dedicated to arrogance, lies and mismanagement, all spun around and turned on an innocent party.

Much the same how the Board operates on a daily basis. Mr Bickers it's time for you to go.

Dear editor

Regarding the Article "Drawing a line in the Sand" - how about we dig a trench and let all these incompetent people who think they have the right to influence our industry fall into it.

I'm happy to apply the CPD training for trenching and making good – now that would be worth while.

Keep up the efforts as I am sure in the near future all those people who have been quiet will wake up as it's not long to licensing time.

Dear Editor

Re Mr Bickers comments in the PGDB info brief – a man generally has two reasons for doing a thing – one that sounds good – and then the real one.

Dear Editor

we find it very hard to believe that the Government would spend millions writing the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 just to form a Charity.

This looks to be leading to our description of the Board last week where the Board's guidance subsystem uses deviations to generate corrective actions to drive the Board from the position where it is to the position where it isn't and arriving at a position where it wasn't – and it now is.

It almost seems the Board have some predetermined agenda of self destruction. We can only wait and see if the PGDB is going to waste more industry money and appeal the decision. Seems like common sense is a thing of the past.

Is this the Board's New Attitude Towards the Industry?



After reading the last issue of the Board's "Info Brief" we are starting to wonder if the industry should be funding a publication which is used for the Board's personal vendettas and propaganda.

The entire publication reeks of the above statement, "Work hard, Do as you're told, Don't give us any crap". The impression we are getting is that the Board seem to think they are better than us, and that what they say is what must be done.

We have to admit the individual skill set is impressive in the appointed members of the Board but having good skills and using them are two different things.

Dear Editor

It was with some interest that I read the recent PGDB Info Brief followed by the Fellow Practitioner. I am going to quote Sir Humphrey Appleby from the Yes Minister TV programme (with some subtle changes) – "If God had intended the Board to think, he would have given them brains," and that, in a nutshell is exactly what the problem is.



I was shocked by the admission of the PGDB Chair that they have expended some \$24k in responding to the Charities Commissions enquiries. I presume this is money paid to outsourced legal advice? Correct me if I am wrong, but don't the PGDB have a CEO on over \$200k – surely this is his job – or is he simply an overpaid traffic warden directly enquiries to outside legal and accounting firms?

It seems we do not have good caretakers of our funds. The Board also admitted they do not know the historical reason why they are a Charity. Did it not occur to them to find out? Haven't they asserted their charitable status on many occasions? Surely then one would expect with such a supposedly prestigious and allegedly intelligent

Re Dirty Harry

One would have thought that the Board would never ask to see a license as it is the license issuing body, we can only assume that they themselves are unaware as to if they have or have not issued a license and therefore are checking on themselves at our expense.

In other words you installed a pan for a client in March and now in October you are arriving at the client's house to check if you did install it! Dear Editor.

I think Wal Gordon should push for an apology from the Board and Mr Bickers. It seems to me this is a Board out of control through lack of leadership.

Dear Editor

You mentioned in a recent edition about possible, future actions, of the industry, as a whole.

I would recommend targeting your support to the many employers of multiple tradespeople. As an employee I would be unable to genuinely support such actions as stop works, or strikes, etc. against the Board, if it went against my employer's wishes.

If they supported such actions, I would definitely be a sign-on.

I know they are as frustrated with the present position of things, but have still required me to get my current registration.

If your Federation, in an official capacity, approached the employers directly, I believe it would have more impact than from an employee.

I have told all at work

group of people it may have occurred to someone at some stage to find out the reason behind it? If not originally, then surely at the onset of questions by the Charities Commission.

The whole Info Brief from the Chair seemed desperate – obviously his motive was to attempt to turn industry on each other by making “threats” that a loss of charitable status would mean increased fees. Of course he also asserted that surpluses would mean decreased fees – well that I assert is just a downright untruth – it hasn't happened in the past and I suspect won't happen in the future.

To sum up all I can do is quote Benjamin Franklin – “The learned fool writes his nonsense in better language than the unlearned, but still 'tis nonsense.”

Those idiots in the suits better not think they can use practitioner-generated revenue to fund any potential appeal to regain their Charities status. But, I'll bet they consider their right to use the monies as they see fit.

Baby sitting for tradies



Another industry seems to be piggy backing on the trades with a company now providing a “baby sitting” service for trade's people working alone in a customer's houses.

Yes for a mere fee of \$45.00 an hour they will watch the trades person and ensure they are acting appropriately and report back to the customer when they return from work.

And not only that, they will ask the trades person to sign a code of conduct, and then monitor their work throughout the job. At the end, the sitter will complete an evaluation report, before locking up the house and leaving. We wonder if the code of conduct will be along these lines;

1. No fires or explosives.
2. Anything disassembled must be reassembled and working.
3. No radioactive compounds in the kitchen or bathroom.
4. Projectiles cannot exceed 250 meters per second in velocity.
5. The microwave is not a tool for experimentation.
6. The oven is not a high temperature forge.
7. WINZ is your friend - do not hack into their network.
8. Small animals are pets and not for experimentation.
9. No space vehicles may be launched after 3PM.
10. Weapons of mass destruction must be deployed off the property.

Amazing how some people will trust a person to be a sitter but they won't trust the trade's person. So they trust us to get them water, heat and get rid of their waste but that's where the trust stops.

On a serious note this is a blatant attack on the credibility of the trade's people. Who is to say the sitter is any more honest than the trade's person?

about the Federation's great work, but don't believe any have signed on. Ask any general: a concerted plan led from the top is more decisive than a fractional effort, divided into many parts.

Ed:

Thanks very much for your comments.

I agree with you totally and the Federation is rapidly approaching the situation of having to step up the status of the organisation.

One of the problems we have is support. Most people are still complacent and won't let their views be known.

I suppose in some ways it's like starting your own business - you always think about the risks and you wait for the right time, right financial situation and right support.

I think the Federation continues to make a difference and we keep reminding ourselves about where we would be if the Federation wasn't formed.

It seems to be another cost on the customer but what's going to happen when a sitter is accused of doing something wrong – are we going to have sitters for the sitters for the sitters who are watching the trade's people?

Hey for an extra \$45.00 an hour we'll become celibate and as pure as driven snow.

The Golden Shovel Charity



Charities come and go but one charity that will last forever is the golden shovel charity. Its charitable purpose is to teach people how to dig themselves a deeper hole without injury to themselves or others.

Protest Action Update

The Federation has met with and spoken to Detectives from the Threat Assessment Unit/Covert Operations Group about the Federation's planned protest during the Prince of Wales visit to New Zealand, and in particular Wellington.

We have outlined the protest action is against the Government not Prince Charles and we would prefer not to protest but were being left with very few options.

They have been given an outline that the protest will be on 14 November 2012 and will be staged outside Government House. This is a very restricted area with limited parking so Mini buses will be utilised and one truck will take the 20 toilet pans (which have been generously donated) and the protest signs (which we will supply) to the location.

A briefing will be held prior to the protest.

If you have any ideas for protest signs please let us know. A few ideas so far are:

- Stop Government sponsored theft
- Government Regulation costing jobs
- It costs us \$90.00 per week for an authorisation to work.
- Poor Accountability increases prices
- Let us do what we do best WORK
- Heavy handed regulation kills productivity

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