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IN OTHER NEWS

We don't care - Take us to Court

Did you see the endorsement on the electronic application for your annual licences?

"This system can process applications only where standard application requirements are met, including the provision of all requested information and the payment of the prescribed monies.

You may be entitled to appeal to the District Court where the system cannot accept an application, however to make an application in a different way, please fill in an application form available from the website (click to open) and deliver it to the registrar".

It's very much a "We don't care - take us to court attitude because it's your money we will use it to fight you."

How bad is it that you know the system is such a failure that you anticipate people not applying and tell them to take you to court.



It's about Trust

This week has been a very busy week for the Federation Committee who had to prepare a submission for the Government Administration Committee.

This Government Select Committee were tasked last week with reporting by 22 March to the House of Representatives regarding the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill.

Not only did our Committee meet the deadline they also appeared and gave evidence at the Government Administration Committee Hearing. The Editor, on behalf of the Federation members, wants to thank the committee members who have put in a huge effort to get our point across at the hearing. We also want to thank those members who submitted written submissions to the select committee.

We know the submissions and lobbying had an effect as it was announced on Wednesday during the hearing, that the Select Committee had been given an extra two weeks to consider the Bill.

So just to recap a bit, the Bill seeks to validate decisions made by the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board and the Minister of Building and Housing, and also amends the Act to give the Board power to levy the industry for prosecutions of non registered people. It attempts to make the illegal - legal.

Given that industry fund the Board through their fees, many plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers are becoming increasingly disaffected and feel it is vital that the Board uses its statutory powers properly to gain the trust and respect of the industry. The actions taken by the Minister will not aid in the Board's quest to gain credibility at all.

The Federation Committee members who attended the Select Committee Hearing have informed us that all went well and that it was good to see Master Plumbers partly supporting the view of the Federation. We have often said there is common ground but no one has ever wanted to sit around a table with us to pave a way forward. Perhaps the hearing was a starting point for a more productive relationship with Master Plumbers and their new CEO.

We think the word is "arrogant".

Membership



300 just become 1,000.

Yes at last the Federation has reached the 1000 mark!!!!

We want to thank you for your help and support and want you to think where we would be now if we hadn't got together to seek accountability.

The Federation has stuck to its guns seeking Fairness and equality in Plumbing, Gasfitting and Draining Regulations and Legislation and the events happening now are a good example of what the Federation is achieving.

We spoke with Colleen Upton, the Federation's Secretary who stated the industry has a lot going for it and both industry organisations have their place.

She is supportive of getting both organisations together to correct the wrongs in the industry – it would indeed be hard to ignore such a group.

Colleen said *"It won't be an easy task as there is a lot of ingrained resentment and old views but times are changing and we all need to change with them"*.

For the Federation we need each member to go out and get one new member and before you

Alan Day senior was his normal composed self and got some very valid points across during questioning. Wal Gordon opened confidently and certainly ensured that we got our points across to the Select Committee, and indeed the members of the public and interested parties that attended.

So at this stage there is not much to tell except that the Government Administration Committee did listen, they questioned and seemed to have a good grasp of the issues in front of them. They were also not afraid to step outside the scope of their inquiry to get information and answers.

Time will tell, but they have invited the Federation and others that gave evidence to send in additional information and views - so if YOU have any views or points you want us to raise then please send them to us before Monday 25 March 2013.

What \$600,000?

The Ombudsman in a recent report stated the Board were wrong with regard to the offences fee and suggested they return over \$600,000 to the industry.

It was reported this week that Maurice Williamson thumbed his nose at the Ombudsman by refusing to refund to plumbers, gasfitters and Drainlayers, hundreds of thousands of dollars in illegally gathered industry levies.

The Ombudsman recommended that the Board should negotiate an arrangement "whereby the excess levies paid could in whole or in part be refunded over a period or some credit could be given in respect of future fee or levy payments in compensation".

It would appear Mr Williamson dismissed the Ombudsman's recommendation and claimed the Board would be technically insolvent if they had to pay this money back.

This is what Wal Gordon thought of Maurice Williamson's Actions:



Big IS good according to Wal who has this sign in the front of his workshop in Upper Hutt letting the public know what Maurice Williamson has done with regard to the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill. The sign reads:

Thanks to the Hon Maurice Williamson, Minister of Building and

know it we will have 2,000 members.

Is it making a difference - yes it is but we all need to get involved and have our say.

Don't forget if you have any views just send them through to us and we'll do our best to action them.

Teamwork is the key!

Legal Action

We are not getting complacent about current events and our preparation for legal action will continue.

We have touched base with Chen Palmer who are New Zealand Public and Employment law Specialists and have explained our intentions to them if Maurice Williamson's Bill goes through.

If we have to go to court we will, and it will mean we will all have to dip into our pockets to take a class action against the Board.

While on the subject of money, don't forget we operate on donations so if you wish to help out and invest in the future of the industry make a donation.

Every little bit counts so if you want to make a donation you can either send a cheque made out to the:

Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Federation,

or

Make a direct deposit at any National Bank, deposit on line through internet banking or set up a month

Construction, and the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board.

This week the Minister put a Bill before Parliament that, if passed would make legal the actions of the Board that have been unlawfully taking money from plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers.

The Bill which is being rushed through Parliament in one week, has the effect that the Board cannot be required to refund the monies collected by the Board unlawfully (\$1.8 Million plus over three years)

The Minister continues to support the Board which he appointed.

Wal said he's following Mr Williamson's advice to tradespeople of "do it once and do it well". Note: only one ute and no dog or mobile phone.



Plumbers NZ are the sponsors of the Federation's website and also the Plumbers Forum. They put in a huge effort to help the industry.

They are looking at offering a national Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainage service to consumers and businesses. The platform plumbers.co.nz will make this possible. With over 120,000 UNIQUE visits in 2012 (looking at increase to 500,000 by next year) the demand has grown to a point where we need to service it to stay ahead of the game.

In several months www.plumbers.co.nz will be introducing its new national phone number 0800 00 99 88. They are very excited about this and wish to open an opportunity to PGDF members.

The Concept

They are getting several quotes to setup a phone based server system that will manage all incoming phone calls nationally, let's say a call comes in from Wellington then the system will know that and automatically divert to a Plumbers.co.nz member in Wellington bypassing the selection menu. If the number is unknown then the system will advise for Auckland press 1 for Wellington press 2 and so on. Option 1 will be diverting to product inquiry that will be handled by our office, also in this case if an installation is required all inquires go to members.

They are not looking at profiting from this and are looking more towards a support system that can work nationally and laying a foundation for a larger vision. The costs involved would be the purchase and setting up of the server plus ONLY the call usage going to the members plus any extra's the members wish to have (example: special answering message if not available).

They are happy to provide original quotes and bills to our members. This will not only support the public but also Plumbers.co.nz members nationally.

The advantages

direct credit.

Account: National Bank 06
0773 0319398 00

Cheques can be posted to:

Plumbers Gasfitters and
Drainlayers Federation,
3 Jupiter Grove, Trentham,
Upper Hutt 5018

We assure you that no
money is used to pay any
committee member, or for
the costs of meetings etc –
all of this is self funded by
the individuals who have
volunteered for these jobs.

We want to see bang for
our buck – and for your
buck too!

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I was working at
Parliament the other day
and I needed a "Lock Out
Tag" to make safe while I
got some parts.

I looked high and low and
this was all I could find.

Guess whose door I found
this on?



- All inquiries within your zone go ONLY to you, this includes inquiries from all other Plumbers NZ network related sites and sources, leads and National suppliers wanting to use our services. You will be the "go to guy."

- You can use this great number for your own advertising, website etc...

- Any advertising they do (Radio, Print, TV) with the number you are Automatically the "go to guy".

- You will only pay the actual usage of that number, they will provide a copy showing statistics and relevant numbers plus cost, this is no different to what you most likely already have.

- You grow as they grow

Requirements

Interested people must be able to offer the following:

- Must be qualified and able to service Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainage (Central Heating and Solar is an advantage).

- Must have a land line that will be answered during business hours and a mailbox or call centre after hours.

- Must reply to enquiries and complaints within a reasonable amount of time.

They will offer a basic agreement outlining responsibilities and duties (MOU) protecting them and our members.

Members are free to quote and use any products. Later Plumbers NZ will introduce their house products to Plumbers in NZ with attractive rates that might motivate them to use them every now and then to supply.

For the "every individual price" on the server and its service will depend on how many "expression of interests" they can get from members. The system is very smart being able to email voice messages to the user, or linking in with existing website etc.

Plumbers NZ have asked for expressions of interest.

They will need the following details:

- Company Name (reg #)
- Area wanting to cover (can be a complete city)
- Categories able to cover

If you are interested contact Rudy on:

Email: admin@plumbers.co.nz

M: 0277332105

0800 00 99 88