



Fellow Practitioner Issue 149 Dated 10 April 2013

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IN OTHER NEWS

Warning 3D TV

A warning about 3D TV

Hi all, just a warning on the new 3D televisions.

I bought one the other day and guess what!

They are so vivid and real. I dozed off watching parliamentary TV.

When I woke up my wallet, savings and rights to complain about it were gone.

TXT Reminders Go Stupid

We don't know about the Board members and the Registrar but those of us that work for a living actually go to bed to sleep so we can be ready for those middle of the night callouts that protect the health and safety of the public.

The last thing we need is some tin pot organisation sending out reminders by

The Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill

Congratulations everyone who helped get submissions to the Government Administration Committee. The recommendation of the Committee stated in part "The committee is unable to agree on whether the bill should be passed.

The report represents major ground gained for the Federation and a lot of our concerns have been looked at. It would seem the committee was evenly divided (3-3) and not being able to recommend the bill progress, indicates that Labour are not supporting further.

Brendan Horan confirms he will not support the bill further (he voted to send it to select committee so the issues could be examined.)

So from 98-22 for the 1st reading, the numbers are now 63-57.

The indication from National is that the 2nd Reading will happen Thursday this week. So four votes held by Peter Dunne and the Maori Party are all it would take to defeat this bill and no doubt Flip Flop Williamson will be lobbying to ensure he gets maximum votes.

The four swing votes are held by:

Peter Dunne: MP for Ohariu - Crofton Downs/Ngaio to Tawa and to Hutt Western Hills as far as Harbour View.

Maori Party

Tariana Turia: is North Island West Coast - Tawa to Tirau and Otorohanga, but not Turangi or Taupo

Pita Sharples: Auckland Isthmus, South Auckland, and some of the West

Te Ururoa Flavell: Bay of Plenty from Katikati to Turangi and almost all the way to East Cape.

So if you are in these electorates then let these people know how you feel even just simply deliver you business card to their office with a note saying that the bill should be apposed and that it puts strain on you and your family or harsher words if you think appropriate.

Now is not time to sit back – get off your chuff and do it before it is too late.

Advice from Bill English

txt at 11.55pm. Do they expect us to get up in the middle of the night to address the reminder or is this how despite they are to get people to license this year.

Accurate Information

We know the Board are not here for the industry but some of us are actually interested in the number of people who re-license each year at licensing time and like to follow the progress because it does give an indication of the state of the industry but can you get accurate information off the Boards website - NO you can't.

The Board reports on how many people have licensed since 1 April last year and last time we looked it was through to 3 April this year. So what does that tell us? – absolutely nothing because that total will include people licensing for the 2012 year, new license applicants for the 2012 year and early applicants for the 2013 year.

So what figures do we get in the Annual Report? We believe the figures should apply to the period the license applies to not the financial year.

Who's Johnny come Lately?



Time and time again the Board preach they regulate the industry and thus protect the health and safety of the public but it seems to us they take a lowly 4th place in the protection scale.

So who tops the regulating scale?

Take my advice,
I don't use it anyway

Let's take advice from the Hon Bill English and move to a disturbing issue, which has not been discussed in the Amendment Bill and that is, what happens now?

We all know the legislation will be passed but it does not alter a fact that the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board took money from the industry which is now

estimated to be over \$1.8 million dollars, and possibly more, and got away with it.

They didn't do their jobs properly and when they got found out they didn't speak with the industry they simply did a John Key and phoned a friend. Flip Flop Williamson comes in changes the law and proves democracy is dead in New Zealand.

So what will happen next? It seems there is an attitude by the board and minister of "we are in power and you will abide by the laws we don't understand. We will warp and distort common sense so much that you can't afford the lawyers to decipher the shit we dish up to you".

Are we as an industry just expected to sit back and say "Okay the Board unlawfully took money because they were too incompetent to interpret the legislation, but that's alright we forgive them as it was just a mistake".

No way is that going to happen. Maurice Williamson said the Ombudsman was wrong and has refused to pay back any money and we say Maurice is wrong and we won't pay any more until the issues with the Board are resolved. The line in the sand is drawn.

Who are they to sit in judgement

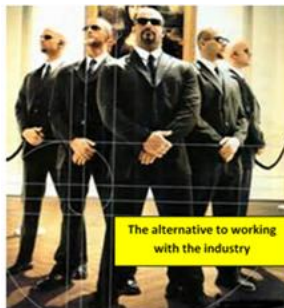


If we make a mistake we incur fines and costs and get called incompetent. Now we have a situation where the Board are the ones who it has been proved acted unlawfully.

What moral right do they have to sit in judgement of anyone in the industry even those facing discipline issues?

They require us to do our jobs properly and we expect the same from them.

Behind Security Doors



What's going on behind those security doors? What security doors you may ask – the access doors to the open and transparent Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board. It would appear new security measures have been installed and implemented at the entrance to the Boards office.

Buzz in locks, camera and who knows what else are has been installed at our expense. Yes the Board have found it necessary to spend more of your money, this time on security.

1st place is us. We regulate ourselves through our own standards and skills.

2nd place is our customers. Customers regulate our performance, our workmanship, our costs and our general standards.

3rd place is our local authorities who regulate our adherence to legislation

And coming in at **4th place** is the “Johnny comes lately” the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board who regulate us if all else fails but they seem to think they are at the top where in reality what they do or don’t do has no affect.

How Fair is the CPD Purchase Point System

There seems to be a great deal of confusion over the Continuing Professional Development purchase points system.

Here’s a breakdown of the points values for you:

- 1 License: 12 points total. Course points worth 9 per license. Self directed worth 3 points per license.

- 2 Licenses: 20 points total. Course points worth 7.5 per license. Self directed worth 2.5 points per license.

- 3 Licenses: 24 points total. Course points worth 6 per license. Self directed worth 2 points per license.

If we work this out on the \$30.00 the board say each accredited point costs it is:

- 1 License: 9 points total. \$270.00 per license.

- 2 Licenses: 15 points total. \$225.00 per license.

- 3 Licenses: 18 points total. \$180.00 per license.

What's next sunglasses, a bodyguard and bombproof car?

Most people that have heard of these new security measures are still in utter shock. After reading the latest consultation document you can see why they need security.

Reality or Not Reality

Reality or Not Reality that is the question. In documents given to the Government Administration Committee, the Registrar Max Pedersen said:

“The Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Federation (the Federation) consistently publicly promotes the view that the Board is dysfunctional, corrupt, incompetent, and that its members have conflicts of interest. This view is not reality and in my opinion disguises what is simply opposition from the leadership of that organisation to being regulated generally, and specifically opposition to the requirement that licensed plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers must undertake continuing professional development”

The Registrar is entitled to his opinion and he gets paid nearly quarter of a million a year to give that opinion even if it is wrong and if wrong he can always get Flip Flop Williamson to change the law so he is right.

We asked Wal Gordon what he thought of the statement:

“Seriously we don’t really care what he thinks simply because we don’t object to being in a regulated industry and we don’t object to CPD but we do object to the manner in which they are implemented.

If we objected we would say “you can stick this trade up your arse Max” and walk away but why should when we have been in the trade for years and the Bickers Board and Max Pedersen have had their jobs for 5 minutes and have done more damage in that time than any Board before them.

I think we need to confirm to the Board that there is now a line in the sand and we won’t pay any more until all issues are resolved to a stage where voluntary compliance is achieved. But to achieve this everyone in the industry needs to step up and be counted and those of us who have started need to get others involved. No more sitting back.

As for the Master Plumbers Association they have a choice of helping and gaining the respect they once had. What happens to them is their call but the Federation will not be accepting issues being imposed on the entire industry just because Master Plumbers want it for their membership.

The Federation Committee have put a huge effort into this fight and should be thanked. They have stood up, been counted and have said the things no one has had the balls to say. The industry owes it to them to pull finger out and be counted as well.” What are your thoughts?

Latest Consultation

Imagine a situation where you have worked hard to pass your exams and your apprenticeship and then you are told “well done now you can work supervised by a certifier”

It seems to us that those with one and two licences are being ripped off especially the one license people who are probably the ones who least can afford the costs.

It must have been the same rocket scientist that thought up this formula that thought of charging trainees the \$45.00 fee each year even if you are already registered.

Computer System for Gas Certs

We seem to remember \$600,000 plus being spent on the computer system for gas certificates so perhaps we should be exploring a venture where the industry takes over the gas certificate section of it the system for the recording of gas certificates where other agencies are charged to access it.

What are your thoughts?

What can you do?

A lot of people ask what they can do to help in the action against the Board – well this week we need you all to let your local MP know how you feel about Flip Flops Amendment Bill before parliament.

Let them know this Board and the Minister have lost any respect or credibility they may have had.

Remind your local MP that they are your representative and you wish your view to be known.

Get them to vote against the bill.

Then you do CPD to prove you are competent and work hard to become a Certifier and get told *“well done you are now a Certifier but we don’t think you are competent unless you continue to buy points off us so work harder and buy those points”*

But wait theses more you now get told *“look we know you passed your licensing exams, we know you have passed your certifiers exams, we know we have said you are competent because you by points from us but quite frankly we still don’t think you are competent so we are going to make it a term and condition of your practicing license that you undergo a Competency Audit even if you have done nothing wrong. You know we need to do this for the health and safety of the Public”.*

That’s basically what the new consultation is about- the Board giving themselves more power and placing more restrictions on us. Perhaps it is wise decision to stay behind locked doors.

Read the consultation document and send us your thoughts. Hopefully by next week we will be able to give you some preliminary thoughts.

A Comment From Flip Flop



We have been sent an email by a supporter purporting to have been received from Minister Williamson’s office which contains the following passage:

I was very surprised at your email and the claims you make in it.

I have not taken any action against Mr XXX – and therefore have no “hole” to get myself out of.

I have no powers of direction of the PG&D Board. Any action they take against any individual is there decision, but can of course be contested in a court, or their actions subjected to judicial review.

I really don’t think it advisable I step outside of the law and take over the process of deciding who’s acted appropriately and who hasn’t.

I’m sure you would want the judicial process to dependent on “Sly, Lying, Caniving politicians”

“I really don’t think it advisable I step outside of the law and take over the process of deciding who’s acted appropriately and who hasn’t”. Didn’t he just put an Amendment Bill before parliament to do just that?

Is this another Flip Flop?

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