



Special Edition Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill Dated 12 April 2013

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IN OTHER NEWS

The Federation

Well Flip Flop Williamson made some pretty harsh statements in his speech and seemed to follow on from Master Plumber's second submission where it was an attack on membership and the right of the Federation committee to speak for members.

The Federation is a unique organisation where it operates on a democratic process where the majority rules and everyone has the opportunity to have their say, where every can get involved, where you can say what you think even if the majority is thinking another way.

Everyone is a committee member; everyone has a vote, none of this bull where if you are employed then your boss speaks for you.

It's taken 110 years for Master Plumbers to get where they are today with their 705 members and good on them as they

The Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill Update



Yesterday saw the start of the second reading of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill and Mr Flip Flop himself, Maurice Williamson, kicked off the reading with a 10 minute tantrum which on the debate scale scored Government 0 and Opposition

10.

(Comment from the guy with the ute, the cell phone and the dog)
– “He flapped his arms about so much that at one stage I thought he was in danger of taking off – and then I wonder if that would mean the CAA would need to prosecute him as an unlicensed pilot? Probably more likely to be the Police or crown law)

You can hear the tantrum here:

<http://inthehouse.co.nz/node/18102>

Selective memory must be catching as Flip Flop, when “giving the “Public” some background”, forgot to tell the “Public” that no one is arguing about the enforcement of registered or unregistered people in the industry, but more about the manner in which it is funded.

He made a ridiculous claim that the Board had no powers to hold the cowboys to account, but forgot to mention Sections 121 to 132 of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 which covers offences and infringement notices which are not used by the Board appointed by the Minister. A clear documented process for dealing with non registered people.

He mentioned about “do it yourself brain surgery”, well perhaps he should ask for his money back.

Flip Flop went on about the legislation passed by the Labour Government but forgot to mention National opposed a lot of the Bill at the time, so were aware of the problems and as soon as they got into Government they didn't do anything to change it, but simply implemented the Act in 2010, 4 years after the period he was referring to.

He lost it totally when he referred to getting out a Bunsen burner and start wiring up some gas tubing. He claimed under the current legislation the Board can't touch non registered people, so if that's

have done a good job for their members until lately where they seem to be letting position and money rule their alliances and views.

Any Federation member is welcome to step up and have a go. If you have a view then put it forward.

If you don't want to be a member of the Federation then unsubscribe, send a note to say you no longer want to be a member, and let the true members get on with holding the Board and Government accountable.

One thing that amazes us is how the Minister Flip Flop has created this situation by attempting heavy handed tactics "Cracking the Wal Nut" with a sledge hammer" if you excuse the pun.

You can't push people around and not expect them to push back. You would think the Government would realise that - with all the violence on the streets around the world.

So what started as a finding in favour of the industry where negotiations were recommended, has ended up with what we have today and simply because the Minister and the Board didn't want to say the Federation was right?

If this Bill goes through the situation will get even worse. The industry isn't going to say "Minister and Board you were right", NO, it's going to say you have taken away our rights, you have unlawfully taken money from us and you will be

the case, why is he trying to pass legislation to take money for that function? He is so full of number two's!

The Federation sees very little wrong with the Act but it is more the manner in which the Minister's appointed Board uses it and the fact there is NO accountability of the Board.

Sensationalism was used when Flip Flop referred to an explosion in Pizza Hutt Nelson where people were nearly killed and appalling work was done. We don't seem to be able to find any record of that, but we did find records of a fish and chip shop explosion where the Board are yet to find the culprit but did investigate two men and decided to pursue one man over the incident. When they failed to find evidence to support the charges they went after him by laying 44 particulars of offence against him for other issues.

So poor was the \$200,000 investigation which ruined a person's business and life, that another plumber defended the individual on 42 of the 44 offences. It's probably interesting to note that that NO ONE HAS BEEN HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR ANY OF THE CHARGES and very interesting to note that the investigator and a member of the discipline panel were members of the same organisation, as was the other person investigated who, incidentally, didn't do an apprenticeship but was given Certifying Gasfitter status after conducting a competence interview with none other than the Investigator investigating him, who also didn't do an apprenticeship but has been awarded Certifying Gasfitters status by this Board. So much for protecting the public!! It all seems like a pathetic joke, except one which has huge implications.

Flip Flop also forgot to mention the Board Member chairing the Discipline hearing had worked with the investigator for a number of years. All of that and the Board believe there was no conflict of interest?

Lapses of memory plagued Flip Flop's speech so much so that he couldn't even get names of the industry group's right. He then went on the attack of the Federation and referred to them as a small group where you simply get on their email list.

He forgot to mention about the part of the Federation's website where it states under membership - "joining the Federation" and there is only one way his people would have got on the list, and that's if they had asked. If they don't want to receive the information all they have to do is unsubscribe but perhaps the Federation's truthful documents are better reading than the Minister's bullshit.

The Federation was referred to as "the malcontents that come to every meeting and complain". The only truthful statement from Flip Flop, but he forgot to say it has taken two years to get a meeting with him because he refused to meet with the Federation until they "worked constructively with the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drailayers Board". But who wants to work with a Board that operates unlawfully and take on the same bully tactics as the Minister?

He also forgot to mention that the Federation has YET TO BE

held accountable.

Now, old Flip Flop referred to the Federation as a small group of malcontents, so it won't matter if we encourage our members to turn their backs on the regulation of our industry as he claims there is only a handful of us. It just goes to show how little he knows about us, or the sector.

If the Government is prepared to change the Law to support the Board with this issue, are they also going to change the law to support the Board when we seek to recover the \$850,000 plus the Board have mislead the industry into paying? We are referring to the equivalent registration cross subsidization which the Board continues to collect.

Sorry Maurice "Old Chap" when you find one cockroach you continue to look for others. And the Board just keep dishing up the opportunities day, after day, after day.

PROVED WRONG IN ITS COMPLAINTS, and there are still more complaints pending regarding his incompetent Board and their application of the Act.

Flip Flop again went on about Master Plumbers claim to represent 70% of the industry and that they support the Bill. Lies, statistics and more lies! They have 700 odd members – 700 and then they "claim" that these members employ 60 or 70% of industry. These employees of their members are NOT members of Master Plumbers, in fact many of them are OUR members, and they have not signed over to their employer the right to speak on their behalf about matters such as this. Master Plumbers is not "the" voice of industry any longer – it is simply "one" of the voices of industry. Again the Minister does not know the sector he so ardently worries about.

The Minister also forgot to mention that NO other industries have a Prosecutions Levy and that NONE of them, it would seem, are 100% funded by the industry for administration and enforcement.

Composure was the order of the day.



Ruth Dyson made it clear what it was all about and kept her composure. This was a 10 point speech that

showed a long term vision.

<http://inthehouse.co.nz/node/18103>

It was a pleasure to see a member of parliament acting like an adult, particularly after Williamson dragged the level of the debate down to such an uninformed low level. This MP has taken the time to understand the different points of view and see a way forward. We don't have much to say about this speech except that it showed a long term view to getting ahead and it showed leadership and taking responsibility for getting the industry working together.

We encourage all of you to send this news letter to your local Member of Parliament with a note saying you oppose the Bill.

Just email it, drop it in the post, or even slip it under their office door. Do it now!

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