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## IN OTHER NEWS

### Wrong Again

We note the Board attempted to assist by getting information out to the industry about the review of the plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying qualifications which is underway.

The Skills Organisation who are managing this project are looking for trades people to assist them with this review however the Board sent out all the relevant information on Friday evening when expressions of interest were required **BY** the start of business **Friday 10 May 2013.**

While on the subject of training, the Federation will be looking closely at where we believe the training is going so

## Scheduled Review by the Office of the Auditor General



Time is drawing near for the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to conduct its scheduled review of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board. We haven't yet seen the scope of the review, but we understand it is to follow up if the recommendations made in the OAG report in 2010 have been addressed.

If you have an issue you believe the OAG should be made aware of register it with us as we are compiling a list of issues to bring up with them and where to source the information.

We can't guarantee they will contact you but at least they will have the issues brought to their attention. Please ensure we have all the details and contact information so that they can verify things with you if necessary.

### Is this Equality?



Flip Flop Williamson has taken great delight in telling us we are being compared to other industries of a similar nature to ours, so have a look at this.

The Registrar of the Electrical Workers Registration Board released their new fees structure last week and this is how it compares with ours.

**EWRGB Registration \$175.00 (first time registration)**

**PGDB Registration \$409.00 + license fee for that year**  
**\$101.00 = \$510.00**

**EWGB Licensing \$120.00 for a new 2 year license applied for on line. (\$60.00 annually)**

**PGDB Annual Licence \$101.00 annually**

**EWGB Discipline Included in registration fees**



keep an eye out.

Send us your views  
and observations.



### Dear Editor

You have made mention about finding common ground with other organisations. Where are we with that?

### Ed

That's a very good question.

The Federation has on a number of occasions extended the olive branch to other organisations, the Boards and the Minister but they obviously feel there is no common ground as none will meet.

Perhaps there isn't any common ground as so far we have been proven to be right by independent organisations and they have been wrong.

It could be embarrassment or perhaps they don't like admitting they are wrong or they probably just don't like our methods of holding them accountable.

Only time and a change in attitudes will resolve this issue.

### Dear Editor

Some good news in the Electrical trade, the licensing fees are again going down, nice surprise I didn't know

**PGDB Discipline** \$175.00

**EWRB Prosecution Fee** Nil

**PGDB Prosecution Fee** \$90.00

**EWRB Written Examination** \$85.00

**PGDB Written Examination** \$411.00

**EWRB Late Examination Application** \$85.00

**PGDB Late Examination Application** Nil as late applications are not accepted.

**EWRB Trainee Limited Certificate** Nil

**PGDB Trainee Limited Certificate** \$45.00

We have to ask why there is SUCH A HUGE DIFFERENCE in the fees. Perhaps it is because the Electrical Workers Registration Board is working for, and with, the industry whereas the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board are a dictatorship in drag.

### The Annual Payout



The Board has done nothing that we can see to get the industry on side and each year it's very much a case of trade's people saying "take my money and leave me alone". Protection rackets operate in the same

manner where the demands are made and you don't get left alone until you pay, but have you ever wondered when it's going to stop - in fact have you ever wondered where the money comes from?

Let's look at where the money comes from for an individual working for wages and what the cost is to them. We will base it on a person with two licenses.

Firstly you must do 20 hours of Continuing Professional Development. If this is done in your own time then its time you are not spending with your family or resting or doing the things you love to do. Effectively you are losing the equivalent of half a week of annual leave.

If you are buying the CPD points then at \$30.00 per point you will be up for \$600.00 (and that doesn't include time and transport to and from the courses). Then you have your annual licence fee of \$202.00 plus the Discipline Levy of \$175.00 and then the Prosecution Fee of \$90.00. That's \$1,067.00 each year and where does that money go – and how long do you have to work to earn it?



was happening!

Now going to be \$120 for 2 years so just \$60 a year and if your only registered for half a year its \$30. Also Electrical C/O/Cs are about to become free by downloading.

None of all the extra bullshit costs, the likes of CPD points for plumbers.

When the Electrical trade has road shows Sparkies turn up because they want to not because they feel like they are forced to with points.

It works out to be about 15 times more expensive to be a plumber and/or drainlayer than a sparky if you do the maths, maybe even more.

I also know the Electrical Board would never spend over \$20k on a case to fine someone \$1,500 for not putting on a restraint kit on a HWC when it's proven the case was already resolved in a Court beforehand, and also proven the HWC can't move more than 5mm, those maths just don't work out or make sense.

**Ed:**

Yes there are some huge differences and we as an industry seem to be supporting everyone in the food chain.

It's a big money-go-round. You have mentioned \$1,500 in your letter. Have a look in this week's issue

Firstly the \$600.00 goes into the abyss of people riding off the coat tails of the industry. The other \$467.00 goes as follows:

- The first \$364.00 of your money pays the Board's fees. Not their costs, just their fees (i.e. the money they get paid for being on the Board – which is not insubstantial).
- The next \$978.00 of your money pays for the wages of three people working at the Board, and the list just goes on and on of others benefiting from your money.

Now think about what you are going without so you can go to work on the 1st of April each year to support your family or to make a better life for yourself. What would that \$1,067.00 do for your family? (Remember that is \$1,067.00 out of tax paid income, so you need to be earning about 24% more – i.e. \$1,325.00 to have the \$1,067.00 nett).

What does it cost the business owner? Read on and find out.

### Where Has All The Money Gone?



A very good question “Has the world gone mad or just our little section of it?” As a business owner of a small to medium sized business or even a sole trader, have you stopped to look at the full impact of CPD and licensing?

As the majority of people in the industry are sole traders we thought we would look at what the “real” cost of CPD and licensing are. This is based on every \$100.00 of turnover and is very basic:

- **\$25.50** in Overheads and includes Fuel \$3.00, Vehicle \$3.00, Admin \$7.50, Power \$2.00, Maintenance \$4.00, Tools \$4.00, Insurance \$2.00.
- **\$3.70** in ACC levies
- **\$13.04** in GST
- **\$34.00** in wages

Out of the \$100.00 there is **\$23.76** left and now take off 30% tax of \$7.13 and you have **\$16.63** left.

This fee multiplied out gives us the bottom line and that's where the Board fees and CPD etc are funded from.

\$16.63 goes into \$100.00 6.01 times, so for every \$100.00 we spend it will take us 6.01 hours to get that money, a 1:6 ratio.

So look at the \$90.00 Prosecution fee where it will take \$541 in turnover to get the \$90.00 together to pay the Board.



We say \$6,000.00 turnover for every \$1,000.00 on costs.

## Planning



The Federation Executive Committee is donating their time this weekend to have its first planning workshop.

This is at no cost to you but what we do need are your ideas of what we need to address this year.

Send your thoughts to  
[wal.gordon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wal.gordon@xtra.co.nz)  
and we will discuss them  
this weekend.

We will be covering issues like:

- CPD
- Qualifications
- Fees and Levies
- Action at licensing time next year if there is no change
- Excessive expenditure by the Board and the list goes on.

Give us your thoughts.

The \$175.00 discipline levy will take \$1,050.00 in turnover to get the \$175.00 to pay the Board

\$600.00 CPD fees will take \$3,600.00 in turnover and that's not inclusive of your 20 hours loss of income and travel etc.

So the three items mentioned above will cost \$5,191.00 in turnover to fund.

It's a simple 1:6 ratio. For every \$100.00 you spend you will have to do \$600.00 in turnover to break even.

Think about this. The Prosecution Fee of \$90.00 x 7100 trade's people licensing is \$639,000 paid to the Board. Using our 6:1 ratio that will be \$3,834,000.00 in turnover across the industry just to pay the prosecution fee annually.

More on this next week.

## Joke of the Week



From Alan Bickers  
Chairman of the Plumbers  
Gasfitters and Drainlayers  
Board in August 2011

*"I'm excited by the challenge to lead the Board through its current rebuilding phase. During this time it is important that the Board not only takes on a leadership role in respect of industry stakeholders but that it*

also focuses on restoring its reputation so that it is respected and appreciated as a fair and responsible regulator in the public's interest".