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**IN OTHER NEWS**

Government poised to legislate get out of jail free card.

Government is getting closer to moving the Amendment Bill to the committee stage and to its final reading.

Once passed the income from the discipline levy and the prosecutions fee become legal, but worse than that their expenditure also becomes legal, so even if it had nothing to do with discipline they still can't be held accountable.

How much expenditure is has been collected for discipline and prosecutions but spent on other items that aren't cost arising out of investigations? We estimate it is over a million dollars so what the government is saying is "hope you had a good spend up its all legal now".

What's worse though is they now expect us just to carry on, accept it and trust and respect the Board.

**The Skills Shortage**

Did you read these comments made by Minister Hekia Parata last weekend in Queenstown:

**It's just around the corner...**



Do you realise it is only 9 months away until you are required to re- license again? Take out December, January and February when the government and their departments appear to do nothing, and we are down to 6 months to fight for our rights!

This week we were told the National Party is using its political influence to stall the actions of the Regulations

Review Committee. They have a majority on that committee so it seems anything to do with plumbers' gasfitters and drainlayers is getting delayed or rejected.

Let's look at this majority, it is unusual for a political party to hold a majority on a select committee, but what is more concerning is that Mike Sabin a committee member took the call and spoke in support of the proposed bill to the house! Where is the integrity and impartiality of this man expected by fair minded citizens? The other two National members are Katrina Shanks and Ian McKelvie

To us, and we are sure to you as well, this is disgusting behaviour and reeks of corruption. The perception is these people believe they have the power to push us around - well enough is enough.

They have relied on our good nature for far too long and it STOPS NOW. We will no longer follow the directions of these idiots.

If the environment in the industry declines further it will be because of the actions of the Government and Board.

**Industrial Actions Speak louder than words**



For months, no in fact for years, we have been writing about the things the Board has been doing wrong and that they are a total waste of good oxygen.

As the Minister, his Government and their department (MOBIE) don't seem to want to either listen or hold them accountable, then it's time to take more direct action.

One thing to remember is the industry is not at fault in any way for the direction we are being taken, and for the actions we are being forced to take.

The system is getting so corrupt that a watchdog is needed to watch the watch dogs if you get our drift. Political influence is rife and bully tactics and industrial exclusion is abundant.

• "New Zealand is in danger of experiencing a shortage of skilled tradespeople with so much focus on channelling students into university and academia pathways"

• "It's almost cheaper to get a lawyer than a plumber these days,"

• "The backbone of New Zealand has been built on tradespeople, who then go into business and become our middle-class citizens,"

• "We're in danger of being short of tradespeople"

This is the most common sense we have heard from a Minister for a long time so what is she going to do about it?

Having an industry in conflict with the Government is not going to help her cause so perhaps she should vote against the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill and have a close look at the qualifications review process that is being followed.

The Federation has sent her relevant information and await a response.

### It's just typical

The days prior to a new process starting with regard to gas certification you get this:

*Energy Safety's online services will be temporarily unavailable from 9:45pm Friday 28 June 2013 (NZST) while work on the igovt logon service is changed over to the RealMe login service. Normal access should resume on or before 8:30am Monday 1 July 2013 (NZST). We apologise for any inconvenience."*

### Add a title

#### Dear Editor

Hi, I notice that Colleen from Hutt Gas is organizing an evening for all gasfitters

The Government and Board treat the industry with contempt, so we are suggesting it's time we turned the tables. They are using the system to screw us over all the time so let's return it in kind.

We have played the game by their rules up till now, we have used every legal means to expose the Board's ineptness and illegal activities, but none of this has fallen on ears who want to listen.

We've tried to engage with the Board – but they refuse to talk to us - so who says we have to have anything to do with this Board – is it time to turn our backs on the Board's activities.

There are steps we can take to ignore the Board as they ignore us. We are now recommending action!

### CALL TO ACTION PLAN – ARE YOU READY?:

Firstly ensure you have your postal details up to date ready for next licensing period so the information about licensing next year and the appropriate forms can be POSTED to you.

Secondly remove yourself from the Board's electronic mailing list. You can do this by simply sending an email to [comms@pgdb.co.nz](mailto:comms@pgdb.co.nz) stating: "Please remove me from the Electronic Mailing list" and then include your details, or if you can't be bothered contacting the Board simply mark their emails as spam. (We favour letting them know – if they get a huge number of practitioners that remove themselves from the mailing list it may just force some action from their part).

If you chose to read the Boards propaganda you can always log on to their web site. There is no law saying we have to do everything electronically.

The Board goes on all the time about "implied responsibilities" and what the "intent of the Act" is. They have their legislated responsibilities but there are also a number of implied responsibilities such as communicating with the industry and ensuring New Zealand has sufficient trades people to service and keep the public safe.

It is time for industrial action so we will ease ourselves into the fray with this minor electronic protest - so rather than them taking it as normal that their emails get through, perhaps they should re-think it the fact that their propaganda will not be read by industry

This is just the beginning, so we urge you to get off to a good start and ignore the Board's electronic communication. If you choose to remove yourself from their list – let us know so we can keep an eye on numbers.

Ignore them as they ignore us! This is the beginning.

### How can you argue with this

#### Dear Editor

I don't want to be a defeatist, I don't want to leave home to go and live in Australia so those pricks (the Board) win by pushing me out. I hate those idiot bastards.

I haven't paid them their outrageous fees, and I'm not going to anymore, even though my boss will reimburse me, but not for the

to get together and attempt to make sense of the new certification regime that starts in a few days' time.

Wouldn't you think the law makers IE: the BOARD would be tasking themselves in educating their members on the changes and how we can get it right?

Seems to me they are waiting at the bottom of the cliff ready to fine and de-licence us all as we fall off it.

PS-keep up the hard work

**Ed:**

Agree with you totally.

This is truly an issue every gasfitter should know about but it would seem the Board will wait until people make mistakes and then persecute them.

A prime example of training that is identified and necessary.

**Dear Editor**

I am a in my final year of my plumb/gas apprenticeship and had just had to read up on the PGD Act and my classmates and I were very surprised to read how unaccountable to tradespeople the board is.

As students we have all been hit this year with a small but none the less new charge for trainee licenses by the PGDB which will make it harder for people to get apprenticeships/trainee licenses.

My classmates & I had not heard of the PGDF until the recent media coverage but it has been the talk of tech.

This year we had all written a collective signed letter of complaint to the tech as our training fees increased considerably this year while the practical on campus course time itself was cut down by over 3 weeks!

We have received no reply

"buying points" part of it, which would cost me, but I'm not going to pay that either anyway because its plain extortion dressed up as bullshit.

They don't care in the least if we have to charge our clients extra to pay for all these costs for courses and crippling compliance costs, they don't care what lengths we have to go to or what financial hardship they put businesses and customers through just to break even.

I firmly believe they have a hidden agenda, with interested parties, in driving as many practitioners out of business as possible and at the same time, making a huge monetary killing for their own enrichment and their mates.

The feeling I've got is that over the years (since 1976 introduction of Craftsman) practitioners have been getting squeezed more and more, as you just pointed out, i.e. you did your apprenticeship, got your registration, paid the license fee and then you could start up on your own if you wanted to, simple-but still hard work.

But the PGDB and others didn't like that so then they brought in the craftsman bullshit to try and stop young guys starting up their own businesses straight out of their apprenticeships and then when they found out that wasn't working either, they brought in the blue and yellow cards to try and cut out the so called "cowboys, "the Master Plumbers even brought out their own card implying that any Plumber not in their organisation was not up to it, that's the impression their TV advert was pushing.

This crap we are facing now is just barefaced extortion, misappropriation of our money and robbery with threats and intimidation endorsed by flip flop Williamson in his position as Minister with the current amendment bill, and it's just more of the same shit from the last 37 years on a grand scale-squeezing us more and more-and they want to make legal the theft of our money.

I'm all in favour of starting a political party to stand up against these crooks. They are not getting any more of my money.

**Dear Editor**

Just thought it's about time I thanked you for standing up to these pricks who are ripping us off. Thanks for having the guts to actually do something instead of us grumbling about licence fees every year.

As you may be aware , following your item on Campbell live , Max Pedersen retaliated with the article in the NZ Herald saying " Plumbers, get your licence or go to court ! " blah blah blah and described prosecuting a couple of cowboys and what a fantastic job they were doing blah bloody blah.

Anyway at the bottom of the article there was a note saying "tell us your story" so, encouraged by your stand, that's what I did. A plumber mate of mine who is also a malcontent with cell phone and Ute ( bugger, no dog! ) suggested that I should send it to you - It's just my 10 cents worth but without the Federation this whole issue would not have seen the light of day and I would have done nothing for another year .

So thanks again from me, for speaking out for a silent majority who might just get stirred up a bit as I have. Cheers

from management.  
Interestingly our tech tutor was very dismissive of the PGDF and your stand but I say great work guys, holding the PGDB & GOVT to account!

**Ed:**

The Polytechnics seem to be jumping on the Money Go Round.

In our opinion a disservice is being done to trainees where they are being trained to pass ITO assessments not to be tradespeople.

**Plumbing World Adverts**

We have heard from a number of our members over the recent spate of Plumbing World advertisements mentioning the Campbell Live story where it was stated that due to the regulator and our fees and levies, Plumbers, gasfitters and Drainlayers could well end up charging more than lawyers, doctors etc.

Plumbing World has given no support to the Federation and we can't help but think they are walking on dangerous ground biting the hands that feed them. Shame they haven't shown as much interest in their customers and the plight they are experiencing with the regulatory Board. (Mind you maybe they have some member's in common?)

Hi Newsdesk!

*By now no doubt you would have had numerous stories from plumbers who are simply peeved off with the plumber's board and their mates at the beehive!*

*Your story today highlights the problem we have. The prosecutions mentioned are typical of so called plumbers who I would venture to say are new to this country and come here to NZ with either dodgy qualifications or those not up to our standard. .When they can't get a job without their "ticket " they sometimes resort to " OK I'll give it a go myself " being ably assisted by the helpful advice for DIYers from the likes of Bunning's or Mitre 10 Mega but then occasionally by a stuff up or ignorance come to the attention of the plumbers board who then prosecute that person (courtesy of fees paid by legit plumbers)*

*The plumbers board then proclaim how they are doing a great job getting rid of these cowboys and protecting the health of the public!*

*I have been a registered plumber and drainlayer for the past 44 years and paying my annual license fees to a board who would now deem me to be a cowboy if I didn't attend " upskilling courses " to gain points so as to renew my annual license . Over these past decades I , amongst all other plumbers , have kept up with latest developments etc in the industry and managed very well to keep up to date with industry developments otherwise I would be still installing galvanised pipe and lead waste pipes These upskilling courses, according to this plumbers board, are more important than my qualifications and experience for without these points I am a mere cowboy ! The so called upskilling courses are mostly where the provider sees the opportunity to promote their own products. I also fail to see the benefit of a drainlayer attending a course on instantaneous gas water heaters in order to get the "points " .*

*There is also legislation so that it is illegal for any individual or firm to employ a person to undertake plumbing work knowing that the person does not have the qualifications to do so.*

*I have never heard of the plumber's board enforcing this or ever targeting the firms promoting DIY to the real cowboys where the problem really lies.*

*The plumber's board may have the public and Maurice Williamson believing them but any plumber that knows how this board who (claim to be a charity) is spending their fee money knows otherwise!*

**News Flash**



The Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill commenced the Committee stage on Thursday 4 July 2013. We will report more on this next week.

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