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IN OTHER NEWS

Letter from the Editor

Dear Final Year Apprentice.

Regarding your submission of 4 July 2013.

Perhaps your letter has gone nowhere as your tutor may be a Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board Member.

We know of at least one that works for a Polytechnic and you may get a biased view if they are on the Board.

We've been saying there is a conflict of interest with such appointments but have been cried down.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Apparently \$100 Million has been put aside for sorting out Solid Energy's financial position with its creditors.

Didn't the government say in parliament that it couldn't afford \$1 million to give to the Board so

Consultation



Remember back in March the Board consulted on extending their powers by way of Gazette notices, to force any tradesperson requested by the Board to participate in a competence review by making it a term and condition of a licensing?

This is the last we heard:

“Consultation on the proposal to prescribe participation in competence reviews as a standard term and condition of a licence. This consultation has now closed. The Board will advise of the outcome of the consultation in late June by contacting those who made a submission and on the recent consultation page.”

We are now in the MIDDLE of July, so the hands must have fallen off the Board's Mickey Mouse Watch, or perhaps they are still trying to work out how to put a spin on their decision?

It should be



It was a topic of discussion at a meeting last week what the future employment for the Board's CEO, Chairman and Board members might be, after the Government has proved they have unlawfully taken money from the industry. It got us thinking about the impact of

being deemed incompetent.

As tradespeople if we are deemed incompetent we are not permitted to work in our chosen industry, and if we did something wrong or even got accused of doing something wrong, it would cost us financially as well. So what repercussions should there be on the Board and the CEO for the lack of “reasonable care” and the “acts of bad faith?”

For us this entire issue was never about the money, but about the principles and the actions taken by the CEO, Board and Minister Williamson. Deep down we all know nothing will happen. The law will be changed to protect the Minister; the Minister won't take action against the Chairperson and Board as it will make the Minister look stupid, and the Chairperson and Board won't take

they could refund practitioners?

Dear Editor

I have just finished reading the news letter.

During my nearly 53 years in the industry I have never experienced such utter crap.

I have always had the feeling that the Board, since the shredder CEO's time, has slowly but surely been destroying the trade, to what ends god only knows.

When I did my block courses many years ago in Dunedin we were told how important the trade is and we always came away feeling proud of the training we were going through and could also look forward to a good future.

Sadly that is no longer the case because of the manner in which we are treated by the Board and certain very dense politicians. Excuse me while I go and throw up.

Dear Editor

I am bloody disgusted with Williamson and politicians in NZ.

Dear Editor

Regarding the Gas Certification debacle. By now everyone should be realising this is the Government passing the buck with their hands off approach to regulation.

action against the CEO because they made the final decision, and he has his close to quarter of a million salary to fight for! This is called the chain of incompetence.

Yes - the same action will be taken as the Minister took when we proved the Continuing Professional Development scheme was illegal since it was implemented in 2004 right through until 2010, and it is still believed to be illegal now, but due to political interference, the industry is being denied its rights by the Regulations Review Committee.

Those in the positions of authority have undermined their own credibility. It makes you wonder what ever happened to the action of these statements made by the chairman of the Board:

Aug 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" "Policies must be faultless in terms of legal compliance and defensible in terms of good sense. To that end I will encourage rigorous discussion of Board policy at Board meetings "

Sep 2011

"Clearly, the most effective way that the Board can fulfill its regulatory role is to work co-operatively and in partnership with the industry and that is very much the aspiration of this current Board. I am confident that the various changes that the Board is currently looking at in relation to continuing professional development and the way it approaches discipline will enhance the establishment of this partnership in the future"

Sep 2011 Special: Fixing the Board's reputation

"My goal for my period as Chair is to restore the reputation of the Board so that it is respected and appreciated as a fair and responsible regulator that acts in the public's interest. I intend to achieve this by ensuring that the Board's policies achieve the purposes of the 2006 Act, are faultless in terms of legal compliance and are defensible in terms of good sense"

What an utter load of shite. It is our opinion, the only statement you can believe was made in November 2011, because the Board have proved time and time again that they are not there for the tradespeople:

"Some people seem to think that the Board is there to represent the interests of tradespeople and that the payment of the licence fee is akin to paying a membership subscription. That is simply not correct"

We remember reading somewhere about the Board providing

Just another action to pass responsibility on to others. Some of the industry welcomed self certification and look where it's taking us.

The public was safer when we had gas inspectors. What's going to happen when drainlaying and plumbing go to self certification?

I personally think this is another way of increasing the Board's income through discipline as there is so much open to interpretation and none of the government departments or the Board is prepared to give us their interpretation.

We have to take the bloody Act and Regs to our lawyers to get their version and we know lawyers aren't always right, just ask the ones that advised the Board about their fee structure. Absolute bunch of tossers.

Dear Editor

We should sue somebody over the poor roll out of the ESS certification scheme where's the f-#*%!n education road show on this one?

Ed: That would be near impossible as these people spend the majority of their time writing into the Acts how they cannot be held liable.

Thank You

Thanks to all of those who have taken the time to notify us they have removed themselves from the Board's electronic mail list.

It's a small protest action but from small things

"leadership" for the industry. "Yeah right", leadership - follow us, we are right behind you fleecing your wallet and taking away your rights".

We completed the statement for them

We picked up on this spin from a press release made by Flip Flop Williamson and Phil Heatley in September 2012. It was to do with safer outcomes for gas work:

- *"The certification regimes have also been updated to permit practitioners to design their own certificates, and store and send them electronically."* **Lucky for us that we ignore the industry as the process will be at no cost to us. Industry administrative work will be increased and the \$600,000 computer upgrade the industry paid for a couple of years ago (via fees to the PGDB) gets shelved and is used for historical data only.**

- *"This means that gas and electrical practitioners will no longer be required to buy Certificates of Compliance from their worker registration board, removing a compliance cost."* **The PGDB will lose the Gas Certificate income but can replace it by charging the industry in other areas. We can tell the public we are reducing Compliance costs by \$25.00 and when the industry continues to charge it to cover the increased administration costs we can blame the industry.**

- *"Mr Heatley said that improving the certification regimes will raise standards in the gas and electricity industries while doing away with unnecessary compliance costs."* **Yes we get to save the Government's costs while increasing the industries and consumers costs but it won't be our fault. We can put our hands in the air and say "hey not us - blame the industry"**

- *"Mr Williamson said that the changes will benefit consumers."* **Well that's what we will tell them, but in reality we are transferring responsibility and accountability to the industry, and the cost to the consumer but we are saving \$2 Million in government administration costs.**

We have been monitoring the plumbers forum at www.plumbers.co.nz/forum/index.php?topic=1476.msg7299#msg7299 and there seems to be a lot of confusion. Looks like another failure. Have a look for yourself and see what you think.

How True



comes great achievement.

If you wish to support this protest action, get a hold of the Board and get your email removed from the electronic list.

Donations

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 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.

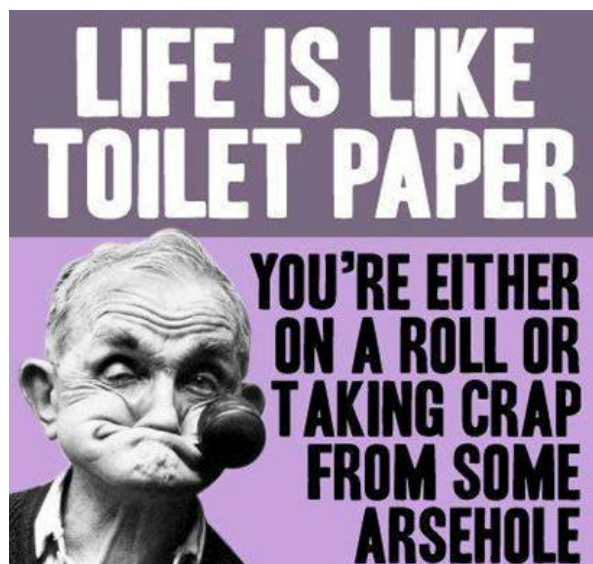
We want to see bang for our buck – and for your buck too!

The Board announced it has been continuing to follow recommendations made in the report from the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) by ensuring that it has in place policies to guide how it carries out its functions under the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006.

Three years since the AOG report and they are still writing policies and the first ones are already overdue for their first review. Next year it will be the three year review for some. It seems it's just a big bureaucracy-go-round where not a hell of a lot gets achieved. (And are we surprised? No we are not!)

It looks like the Minister has appointed a Board to drive a stake in the ground but not to solve the problems. The Bomb is ticking.

Final Word



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