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IN OTHER NEWS

How do we compare with what's happening in other industries.

This week we saw the Public Service Association say:

The economic fallout from the Fonterra milk contamination could be repeated in the meat industry if companies continue to have the power to inspect their own meat.

Last year the government gave the go-ahead to a number of meat companies to carry out their own in-house meat inspections rather than using trained, specialist and independent government meat inspectors employed by AsureQuality.

Apparently it's an experiment which opens up our meat

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)



This guy is as confused as a number of readers regarding CPD points. Over the last few weeks the Plumbing Distributors Association of New Zealand, (PDANZ), has been running a trade show throughout the country. Tradespeople have been invited to enjoy refreshments, up skill, and earn 3 (three) self-directed learning CPD

points while viewing the latest products.

The Editor spent an hour walking around looking at products and chatting. He observed other attendees frantically trying to get answers to questions so they could move on to the next stand.

Yes on one hand a very good opportunity to earn CPD points, but wait a minute - "Self Directed Points" - aren't these the points that we give to ourselves? Yet here the PDA is offering us our own points???

This is what the PGD Board says:

"Self-directed learning can include reading and researching published material, attending seminars or industry conferences or other non-accredited programmes, and on-the-job training. One hour of self-directed learning is worth one CPD point and your self-directed points can relate to any trade for which you hold a licence.

Self-directed points must relate to one or more of the Board-prescribed competencies."

We checked the PGD Boards Accredited Training and the PDANZ Trade Show doesn't show on there. So in effect the PDANZ has no right to say its 3 CPD points as "self-directed points" are based on 1 point for 1 hour. Also there is no need to go from stand to stand answering questions.

There seems to be confusion between what used to be "accredited training" where rules applied with regard to testing participants and "self-directed training". In reality if you are

export industry to a huge amount of risk.

What is happening with Fonterra milk products shows just how costly a contamination problem can be to New Zealand's export trade and to the economy as a whole.

By not using trained, specialist and independent government meat inspectors they basically have become self certifying in a similar manner to our gasfitters.

It's been proven time and time again that self certification does not provide the best protection but it is convenient.

We ask you the question "Is self certification worth the risk," not just the risk to the public but the risk to us of prosecution if we get it wrong?

The new Gas Certification scheme is a prime example of us taking the risk so the Government can save money.

What are the chances of prosecution?

We believe they are very high. The PGD Board and Energy Safety have chucked this dog's breakfast scheme at us as self certifiers and as far as they are concerned the system works and is safe as they have no responsibility.

We are left to interpret this bad legislation and we won't know if we are right or wrong until they start taking action against us and then

getting self directed points you should be getting 1 point for every hour you were there and you didn't have to waste your time going from stand to stand getting answers to questions as they mean absolutely nothing. (Feeling a little frustrated now are you?)

It also poses the question - can we get self directed points for walking around the suppliers looking at new products because what's the difference? This shows this CPD Scheme for what it is - a total waste of time.

Regulation Review Committee Rejects CPD



As you are aware the Federation laid a complaint with the Regulations Review Committee (RRC) regarding the last CPD Gazette notice. The RRC replied stating they had considered the submission and resolved not to proceed with the complaint. They claimed that the concerns raised in the further submission have been put before the previous RRC and have already received full and proper consideration.

In our opinion this is an absolute load of garbage. The complaint was a new complaint based on the PGD Board gazette notice which was different to previous. It is very apparent political influence has again taken away our rights as citizens of New Zealand. We have been discriminated against because we have complained before about CPD and the PGD Board. The RRC have now set a precedent that if a subject has been complained about before no matter what subsequent regulations are made, it will not be reviewed. Is this democracy in action?

A letter was sent to the RRC questioning their decision but no response was received from them. So one of the public funded organisations put in place for the protection of the public, the RRC, has now shown the public will only get the opportunity to challenge regulations affecting their lives if the Government agrees with it. Definitely not the way democracies work and why even have the RRC if it's directed or influenced by the Government? Tax payer money wasted.

Moving on to the next step, it only leaves the Ombudsman's Office where we can go for help but in saying that the sign above pretty well sums up that Offices' effectiveness. It does pose the question - is it worthwhile wasting taxpayers' money putting a complaint to the Ombudsman because if the Government don't agree then the Ombudsman's decision is simply discarded like a piece of trash.

watch the flood gates open with prosecutions so they can justify their existence.



Dear Editor

I've been reading past issues of the Fellow Practitioner and you are fighting hard and having wins but not much is changing.

My question is how far will the Federation go in this fight?

Ed:

That will depend on the support from the industry hopefully lead by the new Industry Board.

Nothing is discounted and we all need to think back as history is repeating itself.

From memory next year will be fifty years since a breakaway group decided to form a co-op.

No doubt at that time there were talked about and possibly even referred to as a bunch of malcontents or a couple of disgruntled plumbers but look what happened.

Who's to say what happened then isn't going to happen again?

Anything is possible but it all has to do with determination and resolve and we know the Federation has shown it is not going away.

The outcome will be determined by those in

The Federation was proved right by the RRC and also by the Ombudsman and for being right we are now being discriminated against by the RRC, so it will be interesting to see what reaction we get from the Ombudsman's Office.

Next week a draft complaint regarding the legality of compulsory CPD will be put before the new Industry Board for approval. The Industry Board will also be looking at legal options through the courts as the system of government is showing it is corrupt.

Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Federation Industry Board



In the two weeks since we announced the formation of an Industry Board we have had 17 responses from people wanting to get on the Board and the Federation Committee is impressed with the range of skills and backgrounds. We have already started communicating and all 17 are keen to make a start and get into action.

If anyone is interested in getting on or helping the Industry Board you can contact us at any time. This is the start of a new future for the industry.

You have probably realised now that numbers have a lot to do with who the Government listens to. If each of you supporting the Federation recruited one person we would have 2130 members, two people and we would have 3195, three people and we would have 4260 and four people and we would have 5325 members. Remember there is less than 7000 licensed people in the industry now (estimated to be around 6600) and the numbers are shrinking.

We currently have about 16% of the industry supporting us but there is a huge untapped silent majority out there that the Board claim supports them and their ideas. We need to change that percentage and draw to the attention of the silent majority that by staying quiet they support the Board. If they want change then join us, and either stay quiet and let us use their vote or have a say. Either way they can help affect change.

All you need to do is direct people to the Federation's web site www.pgdf.co.nz where they can enrol as a supporter. You can also contact Wal Gordon at wal.gordon@xtra.co.nz or

positions of influence throughout the industry and government.

Hello is there anyone there?



Has the Board started back after the earthquake yet?

This has been a very quite year for the Board but we bet our \$4 million has been spent.

Perhaps they are planning their celebrations for when the Amendment Bill is passed.

send a letter to the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Federation, 3 Jupiter Grove, Trentham, Upper Hutt 5018.

Costs under Scrutiny

Did you see this? **“Costs under scrutiny.** The government has begun work on a study of New Zealand’s residential construction costs. Prompted by reports of poor productivity, quality issues and costs significantly higher here than in Australia, the market study is aimed at finding ways to enhance New Zealand’s market competitiveness and productivity. **The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment** released an issues paper for industry comment and is now studying the responses it received What did that cost the tax payer?

We think it’s simple.

Productivity is poor due to the trades being suppressed by the government rather than encouraged.

Quality issues are as a result of the training system which trains people to pass assessments at level four rather than train them to be tradespeople.

Costs are high due to costs imposed on industries like paying excessive licensing fees and levies, excessive ACC levies, Kiwi saver contributions and excessive tax where the most productive members of society (us) are funding everyone else’s lifestyles.

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