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IN OTHER NEWS

Dear Editor

First standard in the world for rainbow-inclusive workplaces

I saw this the other day:

"The first standard in the world to assist organisations achieve a truly inclusive workplace has been published by Standards New Zealand.

NZS 200:2015 Rainbow-inclusive workplaces: A standard for gender and sexual diversity in employment outlines the requirements to be met for organisations to be recognised as inclusive and safe workplaces for people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity".

This is good for equality in New Zealand - but what about the plumbers,

How about moving the licensing period?

As tradespeople working in the plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying industries, our performance is based on competence which helps the Board achieves its goals, so why not link the Board's performance to the payment of fees?

Why not move the licensing period so it is linked to the Annual Report and performance measurements. That way the income and expenditure is known, and informed decisions can be made by the tradespeople in the industry. At the moment there is a disconnect in the payment of fees and the linking to expenditure – it is often 12 months behind. Let us know what you think about this.

Know your rights!



Know your rights or you could fall foul of the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board. The Federation quite often hears of disgruntled customers laying complaints against tradespeople and quite often this is out of spite or revenge, and often linked

to a payment dispute. Whether fair or not it's a reality so tradespeople need to ensure they don't give customers any opportunity to take action through the Board. It appears that no quarter will be given by the Board as fairness doesn't appear to enter in to the equation.

A prime example (and a common practice in the industry) is the situation where a gas certificate is withheld from the customer until payment is made. Tradespeople must still adhere to relevant legislation and send out the certificate even though payment hasn't been made. Failure to adhere to the relevant legislation can leave you open to disciplinary action by the Board.

In addition the Board have the legislative power to withhold a practicing license if the individual owes the Board money. We know all government legislation favours the customer and the Government doesn't provide bugger all legislation with any teeth to assist tradespeople in recovering bad debts, but here they go putting up barriers to tradespeople earning a living if they owe the Board money.

Obviously if a tradesperson doesn't have the money to pay the Board's fines and costs, the refusal of the Board to license them

gasfitters and drainlayers? What do we have to do to get equality?

It's starting to appear that we don't have enough votes for the Government so we are left with no option but to take hard line tactics to get equality.

It makes me sick to the stomach that money is pumped into areas of government policy where there is little or no return but yet we get neglected when we are a very productive sector of society.

Something needs to be done.

Ed:

We agree with you totally that action needs to be taken, but alas the Government has no incentive to take any action as they have the most important part of public health being provided to them free of charge.

Also they have created an environment where a large section of the industry can't do anything else as they are not fully qualified and still require supervision.

The rest of the industry is at an age where they are just riding the wave until retirement.

Big problems are approaching in the future if action isn't taken now.

forces the individual to change occupation or more than likely, to operate illegally. What we need is some sensible payment arrangements adhered to by both parties.

The nanny state protects the public from themselves at a cost to tradespeople, so it's imperative tradespeople protect themselves in any way they can without breaching any legislation. So send out gas certificates in a timely manner, if you owe the Board money then ask them to enter into a payment arrangement that you can afford (so that you won't miss payments – and if you do then contact them immediately – and try not to get into the disciplinary process in the first place.

One of the major things every tradesperson can do is know the regulations and legislation that they work under. The Federation has spoken to the Board on more than one occasion about upskilling in this area – a far more sensible option than some of the points gathering exercises we are forced to take part in – they have never responded positively about this – but we nonetheless are adamant that upskilling in legislation and regulation is imperative to our industries.

How's the licensing looking

Just a quick update on the licensing statistics from the public register three weeks into the current licensing year.

Percentage of people that can license, that have licensed, compared to the same time last year.

Certifying Plumber	2014 - 33.74%	2015 - 35.05%
Licensed Plumber	2014 - 16.16%	2015 - 16.93%
Certifying Gasfitter	2014 - 41.25%	2015 - 42.25%
Licensed Gasfitter	2014 - 13.00%	2015 - 12.02%
Certifying Drainlayer	2014 - 25.87%	2015 - 26.23%
Licensed Drainlayer	2014 - 1.27%	2015 - 1.73%

The Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board will be over the moon and singing from the highest mountain that every class of registration except licensed gasfitters are up very slightly on the same time last year.

Percentage of people that have licensed compared to the final number licensed last year.

Certifying Plumber	70.50%
Licensed Plumber	48.93%
Certifying Gasfitter	77.09%
Licensed Gasfitter	49.00%
Certifying Drainlayer	63.63%
Licensed Drainlayer	46.78%

This indicates there is a huge number of people that have not yet licensed and are operating illegally in the industry. The huge number of Licensed Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers that haven't licensed is of real concern because for every one of them there is a supervisor who is committing an offence by allowing them to work.

Anzac Day 100 Years



A time for reflection and to remind us of what others have given for our freedom and why we should not let others take our freedom and rights from us.

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast, and he sat around the R.S.A., telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in and the deeds that he had done, in his exploits with his mates; they were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbours his tales became a joke, all his mates listened quietly for they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer, for ol' Jack has passed away, and the world's a little poorer for an ANZAC died today.

He won't be mourned by many, just his children and his wife. For he lived an ordinary, very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family, going quietly on his way; and the world won't note

So for the 1272 Licensed Registrations that haven't licensed so far there are 1272 Supervisors who are committing offences.

Do we complain and have them all prosecuted or applaud them for standing up to a stupid registration and licensing regime? Are the Board aiding and abetting the committing of an offence by not taking action or are they using common sense? What responsibility does the Government take that their regulation of the industry is failing?

Letters to the Editor



Fellow Practitioner Issue
250 Dated 17 April 2015

Hi Editor - on that last point - "If the public do their own work the Government and the Board FAIL".

One name immediately comes to my mind -Aussie Malcolm. Remember him? That failed National MP who introduced de-regulation of plumbing work through his hair brained piece of shit legislation that allowed all domestic plumbing in homes to be installed by home owners. Anybody could, according to this half wit, carry out plumbing repairs, alterations, new work on their own homes with the exception of drain-laying-yeah right!! This came in back in the 1980's.

The Government allowed this to happen, it follows that the PGDB would police this new legislation when it became law, people did their own work, sold their homes having completed work which may or may not have been tested and inspected.

What members of the public were ever apprehended for doing substandard work and completing work without consent? Can the Board give us any details regarding prosecutions in respect to DIY installers?

Has the Board ever been involved with the Government in researching the success or failure of the Malcolm Plumbing DIY legislation? How has the Malcolm Home Owner's Plumbing DIY Legislation impacted on the so-called Leaky Homes Crisis in New Zealand? What other Health and Safety issues are likely to come of this?

This is a real can of worms. How did they think they would ever have benefited New Zealand, New Zealander's homes and the Building Industry as a whole by unleashing this ill considered law on Kiwis and our country? New Zealand was second to none in the world for quality plumbing then Aussie Malcolm came along and wiped out 100 years of all that with the stroke of a pen. The results of Malcolm's shonky new law would have undoubtedly heavily contributed to, and backlogged, the leaky homes crisis over the last thirty years which is still ongoing.

his passing, 'Tho an ANZAC died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state, while thousands note their passing, and proclaim that they were great.

The Media tell of their life stories from the time that they were young, but the passing of an ANZAC, goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land, some smoothie who breaks his promise and cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow who in times of war and strife, goes off to serve his country and offers up his life?

The politician's stipend and the style in which they live, are often disproportionate, to the service that they give.

While the ordinary ANZAC, who offered up his all, is paid off with a medal and perhaps a pension, small

It is not the politicians with their compromise and ploys, who won for us the freedom that our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand, would you really want some cop-out, with his ever-waffling stand?

How does the PGDB stand in regard to this, well you are correct the Board here has failed, a huge proportion of the leaky homes SORRY, SOGGY SAGA must surely stop at their feet outside their blocked shithouse boardroom door.

This is no laughing matter to us. The Board is trying to bully and blame legitimate practitioners as a direct consequence of the Malcolm DIY legislation- monstrous lies like "Because standards in the trades have dropped over recent years CPD etc must be implemented" when in fact trade standards had never been the issue.

So they are saying in other words DAILY tested, certified, experienced Practitioners are not qualified to do the job they are in fact qualified to do and at the same time are being grossly criminally extorted and maligned by these LIARS and hypocrites to the tune of millions of dollars imposed on the trade for wasting our time, idiotic CPD courses, prosecution levies and licensing fees, and that doesn't include the costs to Taxpayers (you and me) the money actually spent fixing leaky homes. This among many other things is a consequence of Aussie Malcolm and his National Govt. cronies pushing through legislation like Malcolm's back in the 1980's and the Board's failure to understand the long term implications and failure to act.

The Government lacking the vision to see the outcome of the compounding failure of DIY and the impending leaky housing crisis, combined with allowing unskilled people to work with plumbing materials in a DIY situation where specific training is necessary, was and still is, a recipe for failure and disaster. This is not only a FAIL on the part of the Government and the Board it is a monumental balls-up and they are trying their damndest to cover it up.

Ed:

The Federation has looked at the exemptions given to the public and to find the Gazette Notices is a mission in itself. We would nearly bet that if the Minister of Building and Housing was asked what exemptions his predecessors had signed off on he probably wouldn't know.

The Federation asked Wellington City Council for a copy of the Gazette Notice giving public the exemption powers in their region but we still haven't received a reply. No doubt it will exist in some dark and dusty corner.

Dear Editor

In response to last week's news letter – I believe the Government and Board are failing do to two things, communicate with tradespeople and they simply take too long to do anything.

When have we ever heard anything positive from the Minister of Building and Housing. The last Minister shit on the tradespeople in the industry and this one just doesn't seem to be interested.

I think the Federation is right that as an industry we need to take control of our direction or we will forever be slaves to the

Or would you want an ANZAC, his home, his country, his kin, just a common soldier, who would fight until the end?

He was a worthy ANZAC, and his ranks are growing thin, but his presence should remind us we may need his likes again.

For when our countries are in conflict, we find the ANZAC's part, is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour while he's here to enjoy the praise, then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline in the paper that might say:

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, An ANZAC DIED TODAY."

LEST WE FORGET

A memorial inscription from ANZAC Cove

"Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...

You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.

Therefore rest in peace.

There is no difference between the Johnnies and Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this

Government.

Ed:

It's very interesting that you state that the Minister seems to be disinterested as this week we got a letter sent to us by a supporter who had written an email to the Minister in early October 2014 and he received a response by on 20 April 2015, and no, it wasn't lost in the mail.

Nearly seven months to reply but don't worry - the Minister has stated he is going to ensure the Board's continued improvement - he just doesn't say when.

One of the Board's cost cutting measures appears to have been to have Board meetings every 6 weeks rather than monthly. This may prove to be a false economy because it now appears to be taking so long to get anything done. Economy can be measured on more than monetary value.

Dear Editor:

I have read the constant discussions over the cost and relevance of the CPD training one must attain to continue to have a current practising licence (after paying a substantial fee).

I liken my Certifying license the same as my driver's licence. There are rules and regulations to follow using the initial skills and theory that I learned when I sat my driver's license.

The difference I find is when there are any changes to the road code and/or the licensing regime the Land Transport Safety Authority conducts an advertising campaign to make people aware of these changes, i.e. CPD. The Police also carry out advertising and enforcement to ensure we have all got the message.

When there are any changes to the Legislation covering Plumbing, Drainlaying and Gasfitting, materials, New Zealand Standards - who tells us?????

Should this stream of information be made into CPD seminars similar to what BRANZ seem to run exclusively for all parts of the building industry apart from plumbing and related professions?

All building (and plumbing) consents pay a building levy, AND a BRANZ levy based on the value of the work. I suggest some of this could be used to collate the relevant info and run CPD courses up and down the country. I suggest that some architects could benefit from attendance at these seminars.

This would bring relevance to the CPD scheme and also be a focal point for any ongoing training that the Board's auditors may have become aware of over the previous year.

Lead, follow or move out of the road.

Ed:

country of ours...

*You, the mothers, who
sent their sons from
faraway countries wipe
away your tears; your
sons are now lying in
our bosom and are in
peace.*

*After having lost their
lives on this land they
have become our sons
as well.*

Ataturk 1934'

Some very good points writer. Relevance is important as well as funding.

Here lies a problem where the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board are required to monitor, make decisions on competence and terms and conditions but aren't funded to create any training to provide what they identify.

They are reliant on others to develop the training and then for tradespeople to pay to attend.

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