

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Stop Press](#)
- [Fees Review](#)
- [The Public Register - Getting it to where it should have been?](#)
- [New Building Consents Continue to Surge](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

Kapiti Coast Meeting

The Federation would like to those who attended the meeting on Tuesday night this week on the Kapiti Coast, Wellington.

Twenty five people met for a question and answer session which got very lively at times with a lot of the attendees being very critical of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board.

Attendees included business owners, tradespeople, apprentices and suppliers.

Whether right or wrong the general perception was the Board could not be trusted and had no credibility with the attendees.

There was a lot of discussion about supervision and the use of exemptions. It was generally felt exemptions were being used as a qualification.

Mention was made of people receiving Certifying qualifications when they had never undergone apprenticeships or sat trade

Stop Press



for further edification.

On the EHSNZ website it stated:

*EHSNZ is the only approved NZ wide trainer for the Plumbers Gasfitters and drainlayers **federation**.*

We can assure you this is not the case! The Federation is not supportive of Continuing Professional Development in its current format. We contacted EHSNZ and alerted them to the issue and by early afternoon on Thursday they had corrected it to read:

EHSNZ is the only approved NZ wide trainer for the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board.

Fees Review



on later in the year.

Why? The Board found that the cost saving would be minor due to high fixed costs. Also, the recent consultation did not show any significant demand for it, and there were concerns identified around the financial burden of having to pay two years of fees all at once. Submissions also indicated that there would be the likelihood of CPD being left to the last minute.

An Official Information Act request has been made for a copy of the financial analysis that supports the comment "The Board found that the cost saving would be minor due to high fixed costs"

Another eagle eyed supporter picked up on an issue after glancing at the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board Info Brief last week and then visiting the Environmental Hazard Services NZ (EHSNZ) website

The Board announced this in their latest Info Brief:

Changes to the fees review consultation

The Board will no longer be including two year licences in its fee proposal that it consults

registration exams. That was compared to tradespeople with 20-30 years of experience from the UK that can't get Certifying status. The double standard is creating a lot of animosity.

Obviously fees and levies got a real hiding with discussion concentrating on where all the money goes and why overheads outweigh the costs of performing the function.

Once through the critical stage of the meeting and the Board lynching mobs had quelled, attention turned to the future.

Federation Executive Committee members emphasised the need for people to make their thoughts made in all consultations.

A request was made for the Federation to put out a detailed submission for people to sign and send in to the Board.

Where possible this will be done but in the event it is not, you will have access to the submission and all you need to do is inform the Board you support the Federation's submission.

When looking to the future civil disobedience was discussed as people felt they had been pushed to the limits and the Board and Government were not listening to the industry.

It was strongly felt there was no industry representation that mattered on the Board.

The disobedience actions included protest action, strikes, refusing to do government work and the most supported was the refusal to pay fees and levies.

The Federation Executive emphasised that at this stage it will stick to its stance of remaining legal in the industry but that is not to say that in the future if there is no change to

The Public Register - Getting it to where it should have been?



The Board announced this in their latest Info Brief:

There have been improvements made to the public register. The public register search function has been amended to exclude historical registration and licensing categories that have been superseded.

What does this mean? No double-ups. When looking for licensed plumbers all the certifying plumbers that once held licensed plumber registrations and licences will be excluded from the search results.

Isn't it amazing how the Board make it look like they are doing a good job and have corrected this issue when the Federation has been drawing their attention to it for years!

So in numbers on the Public Register it means there are now:

- 11 less Certifying Plumbers on the register than in May 2015
- 1,342 less Licensed Plumbers on the register than in May 2015
- 114 less Certifying Gasfitters on the register than in May 2015
- 774 less Licensed Gasfitters on the register than in May 2015
- The same number of Certifying Drainlayers as in May 2015
- 5,946 less Licensed Drainlayers on the register than in May 2015

Surely the Registrar is responsible for keeping the register accurate as part of the Registrar's functions. How could there be 8,187 errors in the one public register?

How can we rely on the accuracy of the Board's figures when we see such discrepancies? It will be very interesting to see the figures in this year's Annual Report and will we be able to rely on them being accurate - what story will they tell?

So as far as licenses issued for the 2015 year go compared to the final 2014 figures there are:

- 227 less Certifying Plumbers authorised

the fairness and equity in the manner the industry is regulated that drastic measures may be encouraged.

The forming of Chapters throughout the country was discussed to allow for the meeting of minds and the passage of information. We want your feedback on this as all it takes is for one person in your business or area to take ownership of organising, getting and forwarding the information.

The Kapiti meeting was in effect a Chapter meeting and proved what can be done with a couple of phone calls.

The next step was discussed with the Committee agreeing to develop a Ten Point Action Plan.

The purpose of the 10 Point Action Plan is to detail the top ten issues the Federation believe should be addressed immediately.

We need your help in listing what you feel are the top ten issues in the industry and what you want to resolve the issues.

So please put some thought into it and send your top ten issues to us.

We want to be able to say "this is what the industry wants and needs and we will fight to get it"

- 287 less Licensed Plumbers authorised
- 44 less Certifying Gasfitters authorised
- 113 less Licensed Gasfitters authorised
- 359 less Certifying Drainlayers authorised
- 48 less Licensed Drainlayers authorised

Even with the new registrations and license applications industry numbers are on the decline according to the Public Register. So where have all the people gone? Have they all retired, changed jobs or are they operating illegally? Let us know what you think.

New Building Consents Continue to Surge

Building and Housing Minister Dr Nick Smith this week welcomed the release of the latest building consent figures from Statistics New Zealand, which show the annual number of consents at an eight-year high.

"There were 25,114 consents issued nationally in the year to May 2015 – the highest issued in any 12-month period since 2007. This is an increase of 10 per cent on the same period last year, and compares to the low of 13,236 during the Global Financial Crisis slump," Dr Smith says.

Great news but what effect is the decline in industry numbers as detailed by the public register going to have? We haven't heard much from the Minister about that.

Surely if the workload is increasing we need to keep our experienced industry tradespeople numbers up. What's being done about that?

The Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion produced by NZIER surveyed businesses in Canterbury about how easy it is to find skilled labour in Canterbury. For March 2015 quarter, a net 58 per cent of businesses surveyed in Canterbury found it is more difficult to find skilled labour than three months ago, compared with 44 per cent in the December 2014 quarter. In comparison, the rest of the country recorded a net 36 per cent of businesses who found it more difficult to find skilled labour.

What action is being taken to get partially trained people in the industry qualified? There seems to be a great deal of reliance on exemptions which now seem to be a qualification. We lament this as it is not what we believe exemptions were intended for.

You are receiving this email as a member of PGDF or because you signed up online.

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe instantly](#)

Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers
Federation 6 Tacoma Drive, Totara
Park, Upper Hutt 5018 Ph (04)
5277977 Mob 0276564811 Fax (04)
5277978 information@pgdf.co.nz