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IN OTHER NEWS



Dear Editor

It was interesting reading your comments last week about perceptions of the public.

You mentioned about the need for tradespeople to rise above the public perceptions and be more professional.

How do you suggest we do that? I'm not being smart but sometimes things are easy to say but hard to do.

ED:

Thanks for your comment reader and your very relevant question.

It's not going to be easy by any means, perhaps one of the first things that needs to be done is for the industry to trust the

Are we out of the woods?



“ Are we out of the woods yet?” is an expression alluding to being lost in a forest, so how does it apply to us as an industry? For over a decade most practitioners in the plumbing, gasfitting and

drainlaying industry have seen the industry as being in a state of uncertainty, one where they have continually endured heavy handed regulation.

There have been improvements in recent times, but are we freed from our state of uncertainty; are we no longer critical; are we through the worst of the heavy handed regulation; are we finding our way?

A lot of questions and only time will tell, but in the meantime the Federation believes practitioners and the industry can't rest on their laurels - meaning we can't stop pressing for change because we are satisfied with past achievements. The industry rested on its laurels too long and look where it got us - into a situation where we are fighting for fairness and equality.

Si vis pacem, para bellum is a Latin adage translated as, "If you want peace, prepare for war". It doesn't mean go to war but means be ready and that's exactly what the Federation believes the industry and practitioners need to do. We can't sit back feeling happy with past achievements we need to look to the future and prepare for all scenarios. A bit of time and preparation now could save a lot of effort in the future.

Get involved in your own future and join one of the membership organisations and have your say as we are not out of the woods yet.

Review of Registration and Licensing Requirements



As we reported last week the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board are consulting for the second time on Registration and Licensing Requirements. They have put forward seven items for consideration and comment from the public and industry.

system that regulates us. This requires the Board and Government to prove they have our interests in mind as well as the health and safety of the public. It's a totally different approach to what has been in place for the last decade or more, where we have been ruled by the iron fist.

The second thing is for us to trust the training of the apprentices and have apprentices qualifying at an appropriate level where they are responsible for their own actions. As it stands a huge percentage of the industry is under supervision and individuals don't take responsibility.

Rather than sitting and waiting for everything to be handed out on a platter practitioners need to get involved and feed off the professionalism of others, join groups or form your own groups - simply get involved.

Behaviours in the industry need to be cleaned up so a few bad apples don't spoil the whole barrel.

Be proud of what you do and who you are, present yourself well, conduct yourself well, and have the self perception that you are a well qualified professional. Turning up on time, communicating in a professional manner, a clean van – all of these form a perception of who and what you are.

Dear Editor

I agree with your comment last

Feedback so far would indicate the following:

1. Do you support the proposed names for the licence classes?

Certifying - **NO** , Tradesman - **NO** , Journeyman - **YES**.

Comments We do not support the classes of Certifying and Tradesman. There is support for one qualification class of "Registered". This would require the combining of the Certifying and Licensed (proposed Tradesman) classes. For a long time there has been debate about the worth of the "Licensed" class and when compared to other industries it seems to be the only qualification, that on completion of the apprenticeship, the individual is not able to apply the skills qualified in unless under supervision for the rest of their time in that class.

The word *apprenticeship* comes from the Old French *aprentiz* meaning "someone learning" and the Anglian suffix -*scip*, meaning "state, condition of being." An apprenticeship is when someone is in a state or condition of learning from a master in a field. A person who is learning a trade from a skilled employer, having agreed to work for a fixed period is an apprentice.

The current system and class of registration appears to be a partial qualification which creates supervision and responsibility issues within the industry and also supplies the black market with a ready supply of partially qualified people wanting to earn extra money.

In reality the current Licensed class tradespeople are doing the work of a Certifier but are not getting the remuneration of a Certifier simply because they are under supervision. The industry needs to train apprentices so when they complete their apprenticeship they are sufficiently trained to do the job and take responsibility for their work.

Journeyman class

2. Do you support the new journeyman class for those who have completed apprenticeship but not passed the registration exam?

Yes

3. Do you support the new journeyman class applying to those who have obtained sufficient trade experience?

No

4. Do you have any further comments with regard to the Journeyman class

The Journeyman class recognises the efforts and sacrifices the individual has made as an apprentice and should not be applied to those whom have hung around in a job for a set period of time

week about dropping the CPD points for this licensing period because what will be achieved?

By getting CPD points this licensing period will simply mean we are adhering to the old line of thought and waste our time and money.

I will think even worse about the Board if they persist with this.

ED:

Agreed. It is a simple thing to do and a great deal can be achieved from it.

It's okay to stick to the rules if there is something to be gained but if not then why waste the resources.

There will be the argument that many have already obtained their points and it would not be fair on them, but let's face it, the way these points were obtained is certainly questionable – and what I mean here is that many would have been obtained by attending a beer and BBQ course, or something that did not deliver new information but rather “bought points.”

The Board and the industry have already made the decision to move in a new and fresh direction – pursuing the need for points under an old regime is simply “pointless” (excuse the pun!).

How about a bit of common sense and goodwill from the Board – as we mentioned last week, maybe this could go some way to making up for the millions of dollars the Board took unlawfully before the MP's

without study or sacrifice. The apprentice has undergone training to a level well above a person who has "done time" in the industry. The time served person may have been simply digging ditches for the period of time where the apprentice would have undergone various training. They are simply different and the journeyman class of registration recognises that difference.

Removal of registration pathways

4. Do you support the removal of the following registration pathways? The five year pathway that requires a person to have held a limited certificate under the 1976 Act for five years, or for three years under the 1976 Act and then to have worked under a section 19,21, or 25 exemption for two years (plus pass the relevant examination).

Yes

The pathway that requires a plumber or gasfitter to have completed the third stage block course in the other trade (plus pass the relevant examination) to be registered in the other trade.

Yes

Do you support the following terms and conditions of registration

5. A term and condition requiring a registered person to pay any monies owing to the Board as they become due, subject to any exceptions agreed to by the Board.

Yes

6. A term and condition requiring a registered person to ensure they provide the Board with all information required for the public register.

Yes

7. A general condition about behaving in such a way that you do not bring the industry into disrepute.

Yes

Comments Do you have any further comments with regard to the terms and conditions of registration?

Terms and conditions such as (c) above "A general condition about behaving in such a way that you do not bring the industry into disrepute" have to be implemented in such a way that they are supported by clear policy to prevent them from being abused in the future. It is very easy for the intent of the term and condition to be lost or interpreted differently.

tidied up and retrospectively changed the legislation.

I think as an industry we decided the existing CPD regime did not prove competency in any way shape or form, so why not draw a line under it now and have a fresh start come licensing 2016?

People will only get pushed so far before they snap

The Federation has been saying for a long time that if people get pushed too hard eventually they will push back and last week was a prime example.

Minister of Economic Development Steven Joyce was hit in the face by a sex toy thrown at him while speaking on camera during a press conference.

The Prime Minister, John Key had issues with attending the Waitangi Day celebrations and was subject to what was called a "gagging order"

And not to forget National Minister Anne Tolley's Whakatane electorate office was fire bombed.

John Key has been booed off stage at the Big Gay Out festival and had glitter thrown at him.

Is the Government paying the price for not listening to people and imposing on them rather than getting them to go along with them?

Forced compliance only goes so far and people can't be forced into a bad situation without repercussions. We don't support violence but we do support standing up for fairness and rights. So are we actually doing enough to stick up for our rights?

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