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IN OTHER NEWS

From the Plumbers Forum

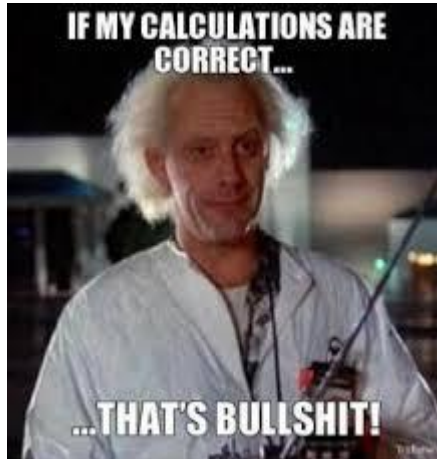
Hi guys, Wal yeah read that tradesman's view of the gas system and can only say that the Board should not be in charge of the system as it was originally.

They failed big time in the Paul Gee case and for that reason, I would not let them charge a battery for me.

The present system is o.k. If they would tweak it a bit; gas certs should never have been available to anyone to download that was their big mistake, only licensed gasfitters should be allowed them.

They need to scrap the certs as they are now and come up with a better, more secure one with all existing ones issued under the new system to be

Sometimes it's just a load of it



This week there has been a lot of media coverage about tradespeople, and in particular plumbers. The Federation believes a lot of it is utter garbage and gives members of the public the wrong perception about plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers.

A perception is a person's mind making up what they see or read. Clarification from the source would help them get out of being stuck on "stupid", but how often do people check? Most people hear it on the news and believe it.

A couple of examples are tradespeople being paid more than lawyers and a radio presenter claiming the average wage is \$74,965!

Plumbers, electricians Australia's richest tradies, charging more than the average lawyer



This article has been doing the rounds and was sent to the Federation.

**Plumbers, electricians Australia's richest tradies, charging more than the average lawyer**

Source: [serviceseeking.com.au](http://serviceseeking.com.au) MAY 11, 2016 12:51PM

PLUMBERS and electricians are Australia's richest tradies, charging more than double what the average lawyer earns. National figures from job quote website [serviceseeking.com.au](http://serviceseeking.com.au) reveal the average plumber charges \$78.40 an hour, up 1.9 per cent on last year, and the average electrician charges \$74.61 an hour, up 4 per cent. The average Australian lawyer, by comparison, earns \$37 an hour, according to PayScale. (That figure may seem low, given the high wages commanded by barristers, but the reality is many lawyers work long hours for not so fantastic pay.)

ServiceSeeking.com.au chief executive Jeremy Levitt says although

replaced by the new one, that would weed out the dodgy ones and restore some sort of confidence in the trade, cheers

**ED:**

This writer to the plumber's forum brings up some very good points and recommendations - but whom do we get to listen to the recommendations?

### Letters to the Editor



### Dear Editor

Over the last few weeks I've picked up in the News Letter's a certain amount of "We told you so".

I want to congratulate the Federation in holding its tongue and getting on with the task at hand rather than gloating about who was right or wrong.

I do wonder if the Federation should be singing from the highest mountain and make people listen and help implement the change needed for our industry to progress.

It seems to me to many organisations have tied themselves up in the corporate image and are now stuck wondering what to do.

Well done to the Federation for sticking to its goals and not selling its soul to achieve results. It

tradies usually have expenses such as insurance come out of their hourly rate, skilled tradies can earn a fortune.

"Pick (a trade) where you need a license and the work is complex," he says. "Relatively unskilled trades like house painting and gardening can make you a steady income but if you want to be rich, get a license and become a plumber or electrician."

Across all industries, the average tradie earns \$60.88 an hour, a slight increase of 0.3 per cent on last year.

At a state level, NSW concreters earn the most, charging \$88.71 an hour. They are followed by WA plumbers at \$87.67 an hour and WA electricians at \$87.33.

NSW builders have enjoyed the largest jump in earnings, increasing 27.7 per cent on last year to reach \$77.85 an hour.

"Going out to WA is still a good idea if you are a tradesman," Levitt says. "Even though the mining boom has cooled, tradesmen are still in high demand relative to supply."

"If you are a house builder in Sydney, you are in a prime position to make a fortune. House owners are very confident about return on investment putting money into their property so there is a lot of work going on in the renovation market."

In Queensland, building and renovations tradespeople charge on average \$55.37 an hour.

Alps Constructions director and licensed builder Paul Gueniat says he often has to hire other tradespeople for his projects and the prices can be "crazy". "Some ask for \$45 an hour where 20 years ago it was \$20 an hour," he says. "It feels like everyone is putting prices up all the time."

### The rich list: who charges what

- Building & Renovations: \$66.17
- Carpentry: \$58.55
- Concreting: \$66.37
- Electricians: \$74.61
- Flooring: \$42.54
- Landscaping: \$67.01
- Painting: \$42.18
- Plastering: \$48.15
- Plumbing: \$78.40
- Tiling & Paving: \$43.14

When we first read this article we thought hell, that's a very low rate for lawyers and then the penny dropped when we read it for a second time "the average plumber charges \$78.40 an hour" and "The average Australian lawyer, by comparison, earns \$37 an hour" – charges vs earns to us are two totally separate things. The \$78.40 an hour would include wages, fees, levies, vehicle, tools, administration and the list goes on, whereas the \$37.00 an hour would be what the lawyer is actually paid. The plumber by

may take longer but at the end of the day, you can hold your head high that you achieved results upholding high standards and not doing back room deals.

**ED:**

Thank you for your comments and suggestion writer.

One of the most difficult things the Federation has had to endure was when it was first created there was a lot of *"If you push our products to your members we will support you"*

Luckily, the committee declined the temptations and stuck to their moral plan of not being beholden to anyone.

One advantage the Federation has is that it doesn't owe anyone anything and has nothing to gain from its actions except for a better industry for all.

Now when we say for all we mean the public, the Government, the Ministries, the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board, business owners, tradespeople and apprentices.

It has to be remembered that the Federation does not gain anything by pushing for a better industry – they are effectively doing the hard yards for other people.

It does surprise us that the Government seems to listen to those who stand to gain from certain ideas

comparison is not PAID \$78.40 an hour as all of you would know.

We followed the link to Payscale and this is what we found.

In Australia, the average hourly rate for a lawyer is \$37.00 and the average for a Master Plumber is \$30.00 per hour.

10% of lawyers earn up to \$20.00 an hour – 15% earn \$20.00 to \$25.00 per hour - 25% earn \$25.00 to \$37.00 per hour – 25% earn \$37.00 to \$60.00 per hour - 15% earn \$60.00 to \$92.00 per hour and 10% earn \$92.00 or more per hour.

10% of plumbers earn up to \$21.00 an hour – 15% earn \$21.00 to \$28.00 per hour - 25% earn \$28.00 to \$30.00 per hour – 25% earn \$30.00 to \$35.00 per hour - 15% earn \$35.00 to \$49.00 per hour and 10% earn \$49.00 or more per hour.

In our opinion, its articles like this that gives the public a false perception that plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers are raking in the money and are filthy rich.

Where is the comparison between the charge out rates of a plumber and a lawyer - or don't lawyers have overheads like tradepeople?

We searched the New Zealand rates on the same site and found the following, note this is a lawyer with less than ten year's experience:

The average hourly rate for a lawyer is \$28.00 and the average for a Plumber is \$25.00 per hour.

10% of lawyers earn up to \$20.00 an hour – 15% earn \$20.00 to \$25.00 per hour - 25% earn \$25.00 to \$28.00 per hour – 25% earn \$28.00 to \$32.00 per hour - 15% earn \$32.00 to \$48.50 per hour and 10% earn \$48.50 or more per hour.

10% of plumbers earn up to \$18.00 an hour – 15% earn \$18.00 to \$21.00 per hour - 25% earn \$21.00 to \$25.00 per hour – 25% earn \$25.00 to \$30.00 per hour - 15% earn \$30.00 to \$37.00 per hour and 10% earn \$37.00 or more per hour.

The journalist that wrote this article is hardly worthy of the title. It was just plain bad reporting.

## The Average Wage

Another statistic we heard on the radio this week was the average wage in New Zealand. The Radio presenter claimed the average wage in New Zealand was \$74,965 and that Wellington topped the averages in the country. We looked into this and found the original information released stated:

*The average New Zealand salary advertised on the online job site Seek has increased modestly and sits at \$74,965 according to the latest data from the company.*

You may or may not have noticed this is an average based on

or legislation.

The Federation pushes hard for change because it's the right thing to do.

What will happen in the future is only speculation but educated guesses based on experience and mistakes of the past can point industries in the right direction if people would only listen.

We don't know how long it is going to take for the Government to realise that what they have been doing for the last 20 years hasn't worked and that the industry probably does know what is best for it.

We can only keep pushing for someone to listen or for someone to realise the numbers of people who actually care about the industry are rapidly diminishing.

ADVERTISED positions. Construction was among the highest paid industries but who actually advertises for the hands on positions - it's mainly project managers, architects and such like that are advertised for.

According to the data, people in the Wellington region command the largest salary package at almost \$6,000 above the national average. The average salary in the capital rose 1.9 percent to \$80,934.

Auckland was second in the top five highest-paid regions with the average salary growing 2.3 percent to \$76,338.

Canterbury came in third, growing 2.6 percent to \$72,512.

Statistics New Zealand shows the average wage annualised would be approximately \$49,000 so here we have a case of people hearing the information on the radio when what was actually reported wasn't really that relevant or accurate.

Being informed is great – what a shame those that do the informing via the media are becoming more slip shod at their job – caring more about creating headlines than giving facts.

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