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IN OTHER NEWS

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I liked your articles last week and I'm fully supportive of the summit. In fact, I hope they put on a few summit beers to keep with the theme.

One thing I would like to say is that Nick Smith seems busy with the housing crisis so he should take the opportunity to let us sort out the mess in our industry.

He should let us as the professionals we are, plan what is best for us.

My worry is that the suits think they are better than we are and will want to implement some half-wit idea.

We need proper change. Go the Federation!

Ed:

Thanks very much for

They had a chance



Dear Editor

Did you see how the Government struck again this week? Apparently, an automatic payment error made 21 years ago has resulted in almost 90,000 people being incorrectly paid their Work and Income accommodation supplements.

It looks like about 41,000 people were underpaid a total of \$23 million, while about \$32m was over paid to 46,000 people. It seems like the Government has ruled out trying to claw back money from those who have been overpaid and is looking at options for repaying those who are owed money.

We remember Maurice Williamson saying the Government didn't have money to pay out to the plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers when their Government appointed Board unlawfully took money from us.

From memory, it was only about \$2m, but here they are paying out another \$23m over and above the \$32m they have already gifted to people!! This just reeks of double standards and shows how much contempt they hold for us.

Why not retrospectively change the law as they did to us? It must be the 23,000 votes that it wants to buy back and the already 32,000 votes they bought in advance verse the few thousand votes from plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers.

If it weren't for the Federation's voice, we would be screwed.

Thanks for your efforts.

Ed:

Thanks very much writer for your comments and appreciation of the Federation. Yes, we did see the article and it would appear the Government said the error couldn't be rectified by passing retrospective legislation, which apparently is what happened with the earlier benefit payment issue along the same lines. So it looks like it's their second go at correcting this issue.

Our opinion is that there seems to be an attitude within the

your words of encouragement. I'm sure the Federation will do everything it can to do what is required.

The frustrating thing is that it should be a fight to improve a situation but some people are stuck in their ways, which have been proven to be doing damage to the industry.

Dear Editor

I have now reached the age of 66 years and have retired from the industry. It appears the politics and policies of the PGD Board have not changed in 50 years.

I had a bit of a time with passing my Trade Certificate as according to the Plumbers Board you had to be 21 years old to pass Trade Certificate no matter if you had set the exam and reached the standard.

I never gained Trade Cert until 29/1/1971 but had passed the exams in November 1969 and passed the practical in 1998. I went back to school to pass the Gasfitting Craftsman papers in 1980.

In the early days, plumbing was a well-paid job but over the years, other employment has surpassed it. Wages were well above average but now only average unless you become self employed. Keep up the good work.

Ed:

Government and their departments that people will forgive and forget the wrong doings - but we think they are wrong. In the case of our industry there may not be anything we can do about the wrongdoing - but we won't forget it. We know it eroded any trust there was in the positions and Government and it will take something pretty outstanding for the benefit of the industry for the Government to erase the memory of that particular wrongdoing.

The government were warned of the risk of their actions but chose to ignore the warning to save a couple of million dollars and to stamp their authority on the industry (forced compliance). They used a sledgehammer to crack a nut and now the issue will continue to haunt them and make voluntary compliance all the more difficult to achieve.

The trust and belief in the motives of the Government and their departments just isn't there now, and the review of occupational regulation in the building sector may fall victim to this mistrust.

The state of the industry can't be blamed on the practitioners – the blame lies with the regulation of the industry.

Education Summit



Last week we asked if practitioners supported the idea of an educational summit to discuss qualifications and training. We

had a great response with large numbers of practitioners supporting the idea, along with apprentices!

Two themes that continually came through were that of looking at what has succeeded in the past and who could we trust. We mentioned trust in the article above but this extends beyond that and looks at practitioners and membership organisations. The industry as a whole needs to come before anything else.

The Federation believes we need to look at what we are creating and how it will affect future generations. We need to know what the end product is and how we are going to get there.

The Federation believes that as time goes by the industry is becoming more fractured and it will be harder to unite for a common purpose. All personal and organisational agendas need to be put to one side so the industry can move as one.

As an industry we don't have one united organisation to fight for us so it is up to the membership organisations to band together and make the changes needed. We need to let the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board know what we want and need.

Thanks for your time in the industry and we all hope retirement goes well for you.

Please don't hesitate to keep involved in the industry and the Federation.

This will make your squirm



Thai man survives python encounter

AP on May 26, 2016, 10:48 pm

A Thai man is recovering from a bloody encounter with a 3-metre python that slithered through the plumbing of his home and latched its jaws onto his penis as he was using a squat toilet.

Attaporn Boonmakchuay was smiling as Thai television stations interviewed him in his hospital bed about the intimate intrusion, and doctors said he would recover.

But photos of his blood-splattered bathroom in Chachoengsao province, east of Bangkok, were testimony to his ordeal.

The 38-year-old told Thai TV Channel 7 that he struggled to remove the snake for 30 minutes on Wednesday before he managed to free himself with help from his wife and a

We hear all the time at meetings about what Government departments are pushing for but remember the PGD Board have the power under the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 to tell them what they require. For example, the Board sets the requirements for what is required to be registered, so Skills and NZQA need to adhere to those requirements so the relevant qualifications and training is provided to meet those needs.

The Minister for Building and Housing seems to support this line of thought where, in a letter received by the Federation this week in response to a letter seeking his support for reviews of the apprenticeship scheme and registration classes for plumbers gasfitters and drainlayers, he stated in part:

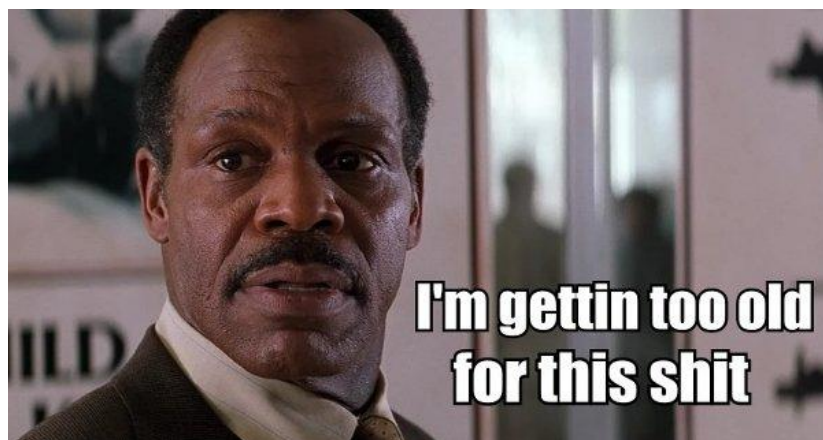
"I understand the Board is aware of industry concerns regarding the requirements to become a registered tradesperson. Given the Board's role under the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 in setting standards for registration and the registration and licensing classes for tradespeople, I recommend you discuss your concerns with the Board"

So the power for change is with the Board so it is up to us as an industry to supply the Board with the united front that is needed for the industry to progress. There doesn't need to be formal alliances but what is needed is trust.

We know what has been implemented over the last two decades hasn't worked and if you think it has then raise your hand, now use it to slap yourself - you're an idiot!

If you have points you wish to make at the summit if it goes ahead, then let us know because the Federation plans to go in well prepared and with guns a blazing for change. This is such an important thing for our industry – for our future apprentices and for all of us – Certifiers, Licensed, Exemption Holders, Apprentices, future Apprentices and even customers!

Retirement A Time of Rest



We know in the plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying industry we are super heroes but we age the same as everyone else.

As we are an aging industry that is losing its experience perhaps it is time we retained that experience and showed

neighbour.

*They tied a rope
around the snake and
Attaporn pried open its
jaws before passing
out.*

Although this is a serious matter for Mr Attaporn Boonmakchuay it reminded us of a joke from a few years back.

A man was bitten by a deadly snake on the penis and his mate rang the Doctor on 111 as to what action to take, the response and advice was that he should place his mouth over the area bitten by the deadly snake and suck the poison out!

The victim in panic asked, what did the Doctor say?

His mate replied, you're going to die.

those reaching retiring age our appreciation by either waving annual licensing fees or giving them a substantial reduction.

Perhaps some form of exemption could be explored for relicensing and CPD for those that have reached retirement age and are no longer active on a full time basis in the industry.

For the Federation, we believe retirement only means that it is time for a new adventure so let's thank people for their contribution to the industry and encourage their continued support.

What are your thoughts?

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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