



Fellow Practitioner Issue 314 Dated 12 August 2016

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THE REWARD
FOR WORK
WELL DONE IS
THE OPPORTUNITY
TO DO MORE.

There are just not enough hours in the day for us to adequately express our torment at the slow change in our industry and to spend time fighting the fight.

For over six years, the Federation has been producing the Fellow Practitioner every week in an attempt to keep you informed of new issues in the industry.

This week issue 314 will be the last weekly edition and we will change to a fortnightly edition as we believe we are starting to cover the same ground and don't want to waste

When Actions Become Stagnant



Leonardo da Vinci was quoted as saying "Iron rusts from disuse; water loses its purity from stagnation ... even so does inaction sap the vigour of the mind".

The Federation fights for the industry on a number of fronts and one of the worst issues we deal with is "issue stagnation". Inaction is one of the favourite tools of a

lot of departments and organisations.

The Olympic Games have identified the dangers of stagnant water with the diseases transmitted by mosquitoes such as the Zika Virus and Yellow and Dengue Fevers but there is an even greater danger that lurks in stagnant situations - LEECHES.

Yes, leeches hang around and suck the life out of their host victims. They do very little good, and are not active until they see their opportunity to latch on and do their business.

This reminds us very much of some of the inaction that is occurring in our industry such as the review of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006, the NZQA review and the consultation on occupational licensing in the construction industry to name the hot topics.

Organisations, government departments and ministers all claim to be doing their jobs and but what is being achieved? We don't see much at all. We are told repeatedly the industry needs to take control, but how can we? What power or influence do we have that can ensure we get much needed change?

The biggest weapon we have is ourselves but we underestimate our own value. WE are the industry, WE have the skills and WE have the power to train or not. By WE, we mean every plumber, gasfitter and drainlayer, every apprentice and exemption holder. Sure, the Government can impose legislation, which requires us to license etc, but they cannot force us to work in the industry and they cannot force us to train apprentices, we do this by choice and they would do well to remember that.

WE as an industry are not here to be treated as second-class citizens and are not here to generate money for leeches. The Federation

anyone's time reading a rehash.

We don't like repeating ourselves and want to give you fresh food for thought.

The Executive Committee have worked tirelessly to keep you informed and will continue to do so.

Obviously if anything urgent happens or there is a fight for life then we will return to weekly editions to keep you up with the state of play.

The Federation is trying to best utilise our resources and keep costs down.

Speaking of costs, our Financials have been done for the year and are as follows:

Revenue \$4,330.00

Expenses \$4,995.00

Net Deficit (\$655.00)

The Equity at the end of the years was \$12,905.00.

Expense totals were

- Bank fees \$65.00
- Legal fees \$79.99
- Printing and Postage \$3,272
- Mailroom \$1,569.00

We believe the industry is getting good value of money when you look at what has been

believes WE are being badly let down by the Government and feel they are out of touch with reality. WE know that voicing our opinion will not put us on side with them but all our best efforts to get them to work with the industry have failed.

Our industry is shrinking, the population is increasing, but there doesn't appear to be any extra domestic work available to the extent that would be expected. The Government and its Ministers don't appear to be providing the leadership required to progress our industry. Look at how many times the Ministers have stood up in the House and stated they know the industry has problems and has done for a number of years, but have they done anything about it – NO.

They did impose retrospective legislation to slap the industry in the face and to save the Board of the time from legal action from the industry. It seems we are not on their priority list.

Is it possible the Ministers are being given misleading information from their departments – either way it's not doing us any good and when we complain about it we are called malcontents that complain at every meeting.

We challenge the Government to meet with the industry groups to address issues in the industry and to deliver on some of the work they are undertaking.

Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board Annual Report 2016



The Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board Annual Report 2016 is now available on the Board's web site <http://www.pgdb.co.nz/publications/corporate.html>.

We have looked over the report and there are some good results. It shows some forward movement and a commitment by the Board at this stage to get on and listen to the industry.

Some issues and statistics shown in the report are out of the Board's control as they can only report on what actually happens. We

achieved.

Stay strong and get new members involved in the direction of the industry.

Keep those small donations coming as you can afford it because you can see we are not wasting your hard earned money. No chocolate biscuits or free lunches here!

Stake Holders



What does it take to be a stakeholder?

We hear it all the time - about stakeholders and the need to consult with them over issues.

A recent meeting got us thinking about stakeholder's and what they actually are.

Think of this - you own a business and have a number of partners. You have all invested the same - to us they are stakeholders and have an equal say. Would a supplier have a say in what you do with your business?

Now think of our industry we have a list of people who are referred to as stake holders such as suppliers, polytechs, government, trainees, practitioners, councils, the PGD Board and the

mentioned in the previous article about the industry shrinking – here are a few of the figures to support that.

With regard to Certifying Plumbers, there was an increase of 97 authorisations issued in this class however there was 172 new registrations in this class that means a difference of -75 to the industry.

There was an increase of 94 Certifying Gasfitter authorisations, however there were 107 new registrations. That means a difference of -13 to the industry.

There was a decrease of 26 Certifying Drainlayer authorisations, however there were 48 new registrations. That means a difference of -74 to the industry.

There was a decrease of 13 Licensed Plumber authorisations, however there were 255 new registrations. That means a difference of -268 to the industry.

There was a decrease of 17 Licensed Gasfitter authorisations, however there were 124 new registrations. That means a difference of -141 to the industry.

There was an increase of 56 Licensed Drainlayer authorisations, however there were 115 new registrations. That means a difference of -59 to the industry.

At Certifying level, this means the loss of 162 supervisors and at Licensing level, it means the loss of 468 trade qualifications wasted at a huge cost to the industry. 468 qualifications opting out of the industry. This is millions of dollars wasted on training these people to obtain the qualifications

The report shows 14,032 registered tradespeople and 10,263 authorisations issued to registered tradespeople. The big thing to notice here is one refers to people and the other refers to authorisations. What makes this interesting is that authorisations don't even equate to one authorisation per registration.

The report shows 7,659 people hold one registration, 4,763 hold two registrations and 1,610 hold three registrations.

The report also shows the 2015/16 examinations recorded a 2.6% increase in the number of people passing in relation to the previous year. That's fine but in reality, 270 didn't pass this year compared to 258 that didn't pass last year.

The Board ran at a \$464,335.00 surplus this year and has accumulated reserves far in excess of what has been stated as being permitted by the Minister. We are sure the CE/Registrar has this under control and will be looking at ways to return some of this investment made by the industry back to the industry.

The memorandum of accounts for discipline and prosecutions show a surplus in the 2015/16 year of \$282,766 for discipline and \$59,073 for Offence Prosecutions. Current balances are \$525,336 for

list goes on.

Because a person or organisation makes money from the industry, does that make them a stakeholder and entitle them to choose the direction of the industry?

We believe far too many people have a finger in the pie attempting to dictate to the practitioners what they need.

Perhaps the direction of the industry should be left up to the practitioners, their membership groups and the Board under agreement with the Minister.

As always, we welcome your comments and feedback on any items mentioned in this newsletter – be you a tradesperson, an apprentice or someone with an interest in the industry – write to us – we'll do our best to publish your letters!

Discipline and \$24,458 for Offence Prosecutions.

We reiterate that the Board can only report on what actually happens and we believe has done a fine job at identifying issues that need addressing from a regulatory perspective and from an industry leadership perspective.

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