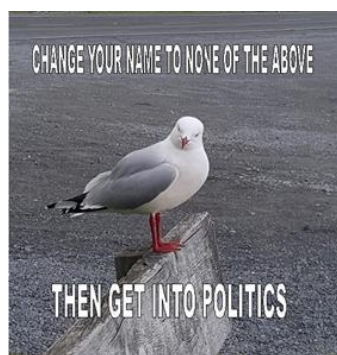


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## IN OTHER NEWS

### It's election year



The Federation doesn't want to get into the political game; we'll leave that to other organisations. What we want is progress, jobs and decent training.

We want the Government to help us and if they won't then we want them to get out of the way and remove barriers to our progression and development. Leave the industry to regulate and govern itself.

If the Government are too gutless to make change then they are probably too gutless to include "None of the Above" on the voting ballot this coming election.

"None Of The Above," or NOTA for short, also known as "against all" or a "scratch" vote, is a ballot option in some jurisdictions or organisations, designed to allow the voter to indicate disapproval of all of the candidates in a voting system. It is based on the principle

## Hunt for the Review



A lot of people can speculate about where to find Wally but can they help find the review of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006?

The Federation has been doing some follow up with the Government and its departments to try and get some feedback about where and at what stage the review of the Act is at.

The Legislation Says!!!

### *Review of Act*

#### *187 Review of Act*

- (1) *The Ministry must, after the expiry of 3 years after the commencement of this section, —*
- (a) *review the operation of this Act since the commencement of this section; and*
  - (b) *consider whether any amendments to this Act or any other law are necessary or desirable in relation to plumbing, gasfitting, or drainlaying; and*
  - (c) *report on its findings to the Minister.*
- (2) *The Minister must present a copy of any report provided under this section to the House of Representatives as soon as practicable after receiving it*

Obviously this section was written for the Government by the Government as there is no completion date. Does anyone actually remember which Government prepared the Act, which Government implemented the Act and which Government was to review the Act? You could be forgiven for not knowing as the process has been going for over a decade and the Act still hasn't been reviewed or is even close to it.

The Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 took FOUR years to get implemented, commencing in 2010. It was written into the Act that after the expiry of three years from commencement, the Act was to be reviewed. That should have been around 2013 and here we are in 2017 and the review is being held in the Minister of Building and Construction's office, or so we are lead to believe.

that consent requires the ability to withhold consent in an election, just as they can by voting “No” on ballot questions.

Entities that include "None of the Above" on ballots as standard procedure include India ("None of the above"), Greece (λευκό, white), the U.S. state of Nevada (None of these candidates), Ukraine (Проти всіх, "against all"), Spain (voto en blanco, "white vote"), and Colombia (voto en blanco).

Voting “none of the above” makes sense if they are not prepared to help or progress the industry.

Why should we help politicians keep position and line their pockets when they ignore our industry?

Cast your mind back over the terms of this and the previous Government and try to find something positive they have done for the industry.

Also think of the people and organisations that have assisted the Government over those same years for positions and self interest?

What has been gained for the industry?

How can we expect the future generations to follow when there is not creditable leadership?

As far as the Federation is concerned it has had enough of the status quo and wants change that will develop into the future.

We want to be proud of our industry and those operating within it and as it stands we will oppose any organisation or person that hinders that goal.

We want it legal or not at all. No back room deals, no paying off favours, no jobs for the boys, we

We contacted the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment MBIE and they didn't know who to contact or if they were dealing with the review. They stated they would get back to us in 3 days.

We did a search of Parliament Select Committees to see if any of them had the review but could only find a review of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Act. We contacted the Parliamentary Library who were very helpful and stated they would investigate for us and would get back to us in 3 days.

We contacted the Minister of Building and Construction's Office and were told they would get someone to contact us which eventually happened. All we got from there was “not much was happening with the review BLAH BLAH BLAH and the Minister would be BLAH BLAH BLAH, that the cabinet reshuffle BLAH BLAH BLAH”, so we presume it is in the Minister's office.

In the last edition of the Fellow Practitioner we asked our supporters to bring up the subject with their local Members of Parliament and one of them got this reply;

*Thanks ..... I will pass this newsletter on to the Chair of the Select Committee that is dealing with the review of the Act. From my understanding what is mentioned in the newsletter is the type of discussion that needs to be had with the committee. The Federation needs to be actively involved in the process so their members' voices are well and truly heard. Get the blokes along to submit in person. There's nothing like eye-balling the committee members. The writer did not suggest that in his article, yet is the most important aspect of the process. It's also a good time to bring up the fee structures that are imposed on members and why the industry needs to be protected. I can assure you that any delay is not about money. From my limited experience it is so complicated when you start delving into these things and the more you consult the more complicated it becomes, therefore the more time it takes. No one would thank us for rushing and getting it wrong.*

It was this response that prompted us to seek out the Select Committee dealing with the review but alas it would appear the review hasn't been tabled in Parliament to be referred to a Select Committee. So will our friendly MP above be able to hand it on to the Chair of the Select Committee or will there be a change in Government by then?

It hasn't been a good week for Members of Parliament as one of our supporters picked up on an article where an MP has admitted in a media article that her proudest DIY moment was installing a new toilet "without flooding the house,." We are pretty sure that was sanitary plumbing last time we looked unless the Government snuck a new definition through.

The Federation is exploring options but it is further proof that the Ministers and Government don't seem to care about our industry or its development. Perhaps it's time to return the lack of support.

want open and clear development and progression.

So for the Government it's a simple message help or get out of the way.

String read 48,805 times

The Fellow Practitioner Issue 236 Dated 12 December 2014 has been read an astounding 48,805 times on the Plumbers Forum.

<http://www.plumbers.co.nz/forum/>

Paul Gee continues his fight to clear his name and reputation with his campaign which has used that issue as its base.

The Federation believes there are some huge lessons to be learnt from Paul's case but getting anyone to help extract those lessons is near impossible.

It seems the persecutors want to forget what happened but for Paul and those involved in his defence the "alternate facts" used will never be forgotten.

We would encourage everyone to have a look at what Paul has loaded onto the forum as it is good reading and as you are reading it ask yourself if it could happen to you.

What Paul has posted is not a made up story it actually happened and could happen again.

How can a man and his family get on with their lives in a small town when people refer to Paul as the guy that blew up the fish and chip shop?

Support from his Local Member of Parliament would be great but that MP happens to be the Minister of Building and Construction. No help there.

How can a person who was trying to do the right thing, end up losing nearly everything including his

## What are your thoughts?



The development of the Plumbing Gasfitting and Drainlaying qualifications continue and there is still debate about the right direction. The Federation still believes that upon completion of an apprenticeship the

individual should be work competent to perform the tasks of a plumber, gasfitter or drainlayer or combination of the three, unsupervised.

There are some in the industry that believe that after completing the apprenticeship study should continue for another couple of years after the apprenticeship before the individual can operate unsupervised.

When looking at what this so called advanced training would involve it seems to hinge around "design". Design is referred to in the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board Competencies for Certifying Registration.

The Skills Organisation have defined design as:

*"Design" means determine appropriate compliant solution and may involve interpreting engineer's designs, contracting specialists*

To the Federation this is more about interpreting plans and applying appropriate legislation and codes. What we need to remember is what a tradesperson is required to do:

**Sanitary plumbing** means the work of fixing or unfixing any sanitary fixture or sanitary appliance, or any associated fittings or accessories, the work of fixing or unfixing any trap, waste or soil pipe, ventilation pipe, or overflow pipe connected with or intended to be connected with or accessory to any sanitary fixture or sanitary appliance or any drain (whether or not the sanitary fixture, sanitary appliance, or drain is there when the work is done)

It includes the work of fixing or unfixing any pipe that supplies or is intended to be a means of supplying water to any sanitary fixture or sanitary appliance (whether or not that sanitary fixture or sanitary appliance is there when the work is done); and is within the legal boundary of the premises on which that sanitary fixture or sanitary appliance is or will be installed (whether or not that sanitary fixture or sanitary appliance is there when the work is done).

Generally all plumbing work associated with any sanitary fixture or sanitary appliance.

**Gasfitting means** the following work to the extent that the work is downstream of the point of supply towards the point from which the gas may be consumed: the work of fixing or unfixing any gas pipes (including flue and ventilation pipes), the work of fixing or unfixing any gas installation, the work of ensuring that there is

business and reputation?

What can he do to regain his reputation and business?

He believes and is supported by the Federation, that the nature of the activities and tactics used to persecute him should be exposed and detailed.

It's not about revenge it's about getting his reputation back. Maybe the NZ Plumbers Conference should invite him along as a guest speaker and let everyone learn the lessons from his persecution.

No matter how long it takes Paul vowed the truth will come out and if nothing else at least Paul will know he gave it his all for his family.

Perhaps writing a book may be the way to go?

**Check your Prices!!**

**One supporter visited a Rheumatologist this week and paid \$140.00 for 5 minutes.**

**Thats \$28.00 per minute or \$1,680.00 per hour.**

**Makes your \$75.00 per hour look sick.**

**As always send us your thoughts and ideas on any of the subjects discussed today or anything that is bugging you.**

adequate ventilation in relation to any gas installation, the work of commissioning any gas installation and ensuring its safe operation (including, for example, the testing, setting, checking, and adjusting of safety devices, combustion conditions, and controls associated with the gas installation).

It includes the work of setting safety devices, combustion conditions, and controls in connection with any gas installation that are not designed to be adjusted by a consumer or gas refueller, the work of recommissioning any gas installation if alteration or repair work has been done on the gas installation or its associated fittings to ensure its safe operation (including, for example, the testing, setting, checking, and adjusting of safety devices, combustion conditions, and controls associated with the gas installation) and the work of fixing or unfixing any gas installation that is attached to, and forms part of, any ship, boat, caravan, vehicle, or train.

**Drainlaying means** laying a drain, altering, reconstructing, extending, repairing, opening-up, or renewing a drain or a fitting connected to a drain, fixing or unfixing a drain to or from a sewage tank and fixing or unfixing a gully-trap or other trap in connection with a drain or sewage tank

Those three descriptions from the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act outline what is required of a tradesperson. There is no mention of design. In fact design could fall into the same category as any business skill which is "nice to have" but not a requirement to perform the duties of a plumber, gasfitter or drainlayer.

It seems a qualification is being held to ransom for the sake of design which is defined as a realization of a concept or idea into a configuration, drawing, model, mould, pattern, plan or specification (on which the actual or commercial production of an item is based) and which helps achieve the item's designated objective(s).

The Federation believes the qualifications should be trade based in line with the descriptions in the Act. The nice to have's could be included in further professional development modules under the heading of advanced trade modules. Some examples would be plumbing design, gasfitting design, drainlaying design, backflow prevention, fire system design, business management and the list goes on. This allows tradespeople to personalise their development in their chosen direction.

A big question to ask is what design training do those pushing for its inclusion in our trade qualification have? We believe the answer will be none - but what they do have is experience, knowledge and skills. Will the inclusion of design be legal as it is not plumbing gasfitting or drainlaying?

Please send us your thoughts.