



Fellow Practitioner Issue 347 Dated 24 November 2017

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IN OTHER NEWS

Health and Safety From the Plumbers Forum

Just wondering if there are any comments on how the act has changed your workplace?

Having now worked for one large employer whose Health & safety was work in progress and a smaller firm quite proactive and looking at other trades and how they operate that there are quite a few differing takes to how to meet compliance.

Some funny, some just stupid, some make it more of a hazard. I know the take on Take 5, JSA, Sign in, ring the help desk, induction, security clearance, set up cones, signs, secure this secure that, do

Hopefully Still Value For Money



Thanks to everyone who has been donating to the Federation over the years to help keep it fighting for a fair deal for the industry.

Donations have been down over the last couple of years as no doubt everyone wants to see value for money and we realise people won't donate unless they perceive a threat to themselves or the way they operate.

The Federation believes the threat is there all the time and hopes to prevent any issues from happening and this is where donations come in. All donations, big and small, help us pay the few bills we have to keep you as an industry aware of what is going on and to put your ideas forward. Prevention is better than cure and that's why the Federation Committee continue holding people to account for their actions that affect the industry as a whole.

For the year ending March 2016 it cost \$13.65 per day for the Federation to operate. This escalated to \$14.00 a day for the year ending March 2017. You may want to compare it to others who do things for the industry such as the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board at \$10,806 a day, or Master Plumbers at \$4,174.64 per day.

You could argue all day about who is achieving the most but we suggest the Federation is probably leading the field in fighting for a fair deal for the industry as a whole. We are not riding on the coat tails of practitioners to accumulate wealth or doing other bidding. We can see a need for most of the organisations in the industry and we also see the need for agreement on the common goals and one voice for all in the industry when comes to campaigning for our needs.

For those that are new to the industry the Federation was initially set up as a short term organisation to fight for our rights as an industry and seven years later we are still going. We initially thought that after twelve months the government and bureaucrats would realise the mistakes they were making but perhaps we didn't realise how ingrained their distaste was for the industry.

Now we are all paying the price for the ignorance they showed. There are insufficient qualified practitioners in the industry, too few

job, reverse order sign out
 blah blah must add up to a fair
 bit.

I don't know if this system will
 make us safer or more stupid,
 more the later perhaps.

OSH legislation is going to cost
 lives. Too much emphasis is
 being put on covering
 everyone's arse with
 bureaucracy that the real
 purpose of OSH is being
 forgotten.

It's costing small business too
 much money and work as
 well. The latest garbage is the
 Pre-Qual where you pay a
 third party to rate your OSH
 processes and procedures so a
 main contractor will give you
 work.

I'm so sick of it all that I
 recently told a large
 contractor to get stuffed I
 wasn't going to pay for a
 qualification just to get work.

To me it's the same corrupt
 action as extortion. The law
 requires me to have processes
 and procedures in place not
 the whims of organisations
 trying to cover their arse if
 something goes wrong.

We recently looked at a
 roofing repair job. \$1,800 for
 the repairs, over \$7,000 for
 edge protection. Whatever
 happened to using common
 sense?

Another piece of legislation
 that people will get sick of and
 walk away from their chosen
 professions because their jobs
 will no longer be viable. How
 does all this work on OSH
 keep the price of housing
 down?

work place competent supervisors and we are reliant on 2,500
 exemption holders to support the qualified people in providing our
 important services to the public. All of that and that's without the
 need for the industry to increase productivity.

Look at all the years of regulation and there is still no progression.
 The Federation knows we have been repetitive of late but no one is
 stepping up to take responsibility to effect change and provide the
 leadership needed by the industry.

To keep everything open and transparent here are the Federations
 financials as at 31 March 2017.

Income Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2017

	Notes	2017	2016
REVENUE			
Donations		2,458	4,330
Interest		-	-
		<u>2,458</u>	<u>4,330</u>
EXPENSES			
Accountancy Fees	175	-	-
Bank Fees	45	-	63
General	-	-	-
Legal	-	-	79
Printing & Postage	Includes Website 4,892	-	3,987
Website		-	856
Total Expenses		<u>5,112</u>	<u>4,985</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for Year		<u>(2,654)</u>	<u>(655)</u>
Income Tax		-	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for Year after Tax		<u>(2,654)</u>	<u>(655)</u>

Statement of Movements in Equity for the Year Ended 31 March 2017

	2017	2016
Total Recognised Revenue and Expenses		
Net Surplus/(Deficit) after Tax	(2,654)	(655)
Movements in Equity for the year	<u>(2,654)</u>	<u>(655)</u>
Equity at the beginning of the year	12,905	13,560
Equity at the end of the year	<u>10,251</u>	<u>12,905</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017

	Notes	2017	2016
CURRENT ASSETS			
ANZ - Cheque Account		10,250	12,905
Tax Refund Due		-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>10,250</u>	<u>12,905</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>10,250</u>	<u>12,905</u>
Represented by:			
Accumulated Funds		10,250	12,905
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>10,250</u>	<u>12,905</u>

Hi guys, Watchdog as far as I am aware there is no legal requirement for scaffolding on new houses or edge protection/safety nets or even wearing hi vis clothing, it is a requirement set up as a disclaimer by companies or main contractor in case something goes wrong and they finish up in court, cheers

Hi Robbo The legal requirement is out of the "Fish and Chip Act" being "TAKE ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO.....".

What is reasonable to a bureaucrat probably won't be reasonable to me as a trade's person. Ask them for a definition and you get a reply that it's up to the courts to decide what all reasonable steps based on the circumstances is.

To me it's all bullshit. If legislation is not easy to understand then it is poor legislation.

Yeah Watchdog (TAKE ALL REASONABLE STEPS) could mean being really careful but all parties are making sure they are not responsible if problems occur.

Successive governments have shed all responsibility for anything by appointing Boards other groups to set the rules for us all so when the brown stuff hits the fan they take the blame and are reprimanded or sacked (just like our board was sacked by Michael Cullen for wasting a lot of money that should have been used

Continued

The Federation isn't accumulating millions or hundreds of thousands of dollars – we are staying true to our word and fighting for fairness and equality at minimal cost. All our executive give their time freely, even picking up their own tab for travel when required. They have given many, many hours over the last few years and we thank them all for their efforts.

We need your voice and skills more than anything but if you feel passionate about getting progression in the industry then you can donate into the Federations ANZ account 06: 0773: 0319398: 00. If you want a receipt then just let Wal know at wal.gordon@xtra.co.nz.

If you feel you can help then also contact Wal and he will find a way to put you to good use. The Federation has never really pushed membership or numbers because it's been more important to collate evidence and win the fight that way as the truth has always prevailed.

Communication will be a huge issue over the next six months so we need to have networks in place to get true information out to the industry and get feedback from the industry. You may want to consider starting a network in your business or your local supplier so issues can be discussed and your collective ideas can be put forward.

As far as the Federation is concerned everyone has a voice and they should be heard – this means the trainees, the tradespeople, the certifiers, the business owners, the admin staff – anyone who cares about our industry! Start talking now because there are very important issues being consulted on by the Board early next year and all things going well the industry will have the support of the Government.

Board Consultation Changes to Registration Pathways

A reminder the Plumbers Gassfitters and Drainlayers Board seek your feedback by 1 December 2017 on changes to the Registration pathway. The purpose of this consultation is to seek your feedback on two proposed changes to the pathways to registration set out in the registration and licensing Gazette notices (Gazette notices). The full consultation document can be found at www.pgdb.co.nz/consultation.

The Federation's submission is as follows:

A. Do you agree with the Board recognising the new qualification, the New Zealand Certificate in Plumbing, Gasfitting or Drainlaying? Yes SEE COMMENTS BELOW

B. Do you agree with the Board replacing the requirement for overseas trained practitioners to get their overseas trade qualifications assessed by New Zealand Qualifications Authority with the requirement for them to get their qualifications assessed by The Skills Organisation? Yes (SEE COMMENTS BELOW

for training).

The whole setup makes a mockery of the `No Blame A.C.C. system`.

Working in the construction industry involves a lot of dangerous work which is managed as well as can be expected at all times but miscalculations/accidents will happen from time to time and no amount of rules and regulations imposed by overzealous bureaucrats will change that.

Anything that can happen will happen it is just a matter of time, cheers

C. If you do not agree with the Board's proposals above please state why you do not agree. With regard to recognising the new qualification what options do we but to answer yes? If the Board does not recognise the qualification then no one will qualify as a plumber Gasfitter or Drainlayer. The level 4 qualification was railroaded through without proper consultation and development and we have ended up with a qualification where the individuals are deemed NOT workplace competent. The Board is apparently consulting on the registration qualification next year. Yet again the industry has to vote on something that is being imposed on us as we have no other option.

With regard to The Skills Organisation taking over from NZQA yet again what other option do we have that to answer yes? If we don't answer yes and if NZQA are no longer providing the service then there will be no assessments unless we answer yes. Not many choices here.

D. Is there anything further about the Board's proposals that you wish to add? The Skills Organisation seems to have been chosen but their track record hasn't been very good to date so and they seem to lack workable communication with the industry. Their motives don't seem to be for the betterment of our industry.

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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