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IN OTHER NEWS

SO WHAT AND WHAT IF SCENARIO

The plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying industry needs a representative body to support and fight for the interests of the entire industry, business owners and wage earners, contractors and apprentices.

SO WHAT: Currently there are a number of membership organisations and interest groups.

SO WHAT: There is no collective voice.

SO WHAT: Those with influence can control the direction of the entire industry to meet their own needs which may not necessarily be good for all in the industry.

SO WHAT: The influence needs to stop and collective solutions for the good of the industry

WHATS YOUR NEXT MOVE?



It's not a fun time for anyone because of the Covid-19 virus and we just don't know what's around the corner or what we are going to wake up to in the morning. But it's not all bad because we have one of the most powerful computers in the world, our brains and in most cases common sense.

We have had a number of people mention to us about the stress they are under worrying about family, personal finance and for business owners the added pressure of keeping staff employed and keeping their businesses viable.

need to be found.

SO WHAT: Those who are influencing and those being influenced need to be re-educated in the needs of the entire industry.

SO WHAT: Those who are not the influencers need to unite and fight for ALL in the industry and bring to light all industry problems.

SO WHAT: This will require the support and input of practitioners in the industry.

SO WHAT: The message needs to be spread about the formation of an Industry Representative Group.

SO WHAT: There needs to be a process for the collection of information.

SO WHAT: There needs to be a start up point and structure.

SO WHAT: It needs people to take the bull by the horns and create the start up point so it can be built on and developed.

WHAT IF: No one is interested in industry representation?

SO WHAT: The industry remains as it is with only a selected few having influence over the industry direction.

It's extremely hard to plan as an individual and as a business owner when we are reliant on decisions made by others such as the Government. One thing we have noticed during this lockdown period is the sheer volume of information being supplied. Some of it is useful and some of it not. Some from around the world and some from New Zealand. The problem is what to believe?

For the Federation we have chosen to take what the Government is saying as being what we need to know and do, but this can even get confusing when the government agencies and departments water down what the Government is saying or quote processes and procedures from overseas. This means a lot gets lost in translation.

Information overload can cause issues such as sleepless nights and stress. The constant worry can take its toll but we are not alone in this situation and can help ourselves to relieve the stress.

Give this some thought 'what if sleeping is just the time it takes for tomorrow to load'. As we stated it is claimed our brain is the most powerful computer in the world so perhaps we should be loading the right information into it.

There are things we can't control but we can be ready for them and some simple planning, both personal and business, can help. Two simple questions can help in the planning process 'SO WHAT and WHAT IF'.

The use of the two questions generally starts from a statement. Sometimes these questions end up at one layer and sometimes they go on to raise more questions. Here's a one layer issue (**fictional only**) for an individual: The Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board are considering a refund of fees to all practitioners? SO WHAT – relief on the personal finances would be excellent. WHAT IF they don't – I have lost nothing.

Using the same issue from the Board's perspective. The Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board are considering a refund of fees to all practitioners. SO WHAT – would there be sufficient reserves to keep the Board operational for 12 months, No, SO WHAT the Board would need to find an alternative income stream, SO WHAT this is probably not legally possible, SO WHAT find an alternative method to help practitioners. This is where the WHAT IF question would come into play with alternate ways to help and the SO WHAT process starts again.

As you can see the SO WHAT and WHAT IF questions can help put you on a logical, stress free path to resolving problems or introducing solutions or compromises.

This process works and it doesn't cost you anything apart from time and pen and paper. A good way to sleep easier is to document your thoughts. Don't lie in bed wondering and running different scenarios

SO WHAT: No change.

WHAT IF: The influencers and influenced oppose the formation of a representative group?

SO WHAT: They can either participate or be ignored (apart from their supporters).

SO WHAT: Having all in the industry participate is best.

SO WHAT: If not everyone is supportive it would end up to be a numbers game of influencers verse representative group supporters.

SO WHAT: There would be a need for membership recruitment.

SO WHAT: We need start point volunteers.

As you can see with two simple questions a plan is developing in a very short time. Solutions are being found for each WHAT IF question.

The WHAT IF question can be asked off each SO WHAT statement.

through your head – have a pad beside the bed and write down what you are thinking. Do the SO WHAT and WHAT IF questions then drift back into the reset mode for tomorrow.

We know it's difficult but we all need to think about what's the next move? We need to make decisions based on the information supplied by the Government. A couple of acronyms that may help are 'KISS' being 'Keep It Simple Stupid' and the five "Ps" Prior Planning Prevents Piss-poor Performance.

We need to come up with ideas which can be built on for our future as individuals and as an industry.

What if we wake up in the morning and the Covid-19 virus has disappeared as fast as it appeared and we move to a different level – will you have thought about what's next?

In the side column we have provided an example of the SO WHAT and WHAT IF process. Give it a go on a personal issue and let us know how you get on.

STAY SAFE AND WELL AND REMEMBER TO KEEP CALM AND FOLLOW THE PRIME DIRECTIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

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