

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- **WHATS THE LOGIC?**
- **UNSUNG HEROES**

**IN OTHER NEWS**

**Letter to the Editor**

**Dear Editor**

I read with interest your summary of the last decade. I must say I was in fits of laughter when an ex CEO stated the Federation had no right to represent anyone.

It makes me think the situation we have now where the Board sends out emails telling us what we can and can't do and giving their opinion.

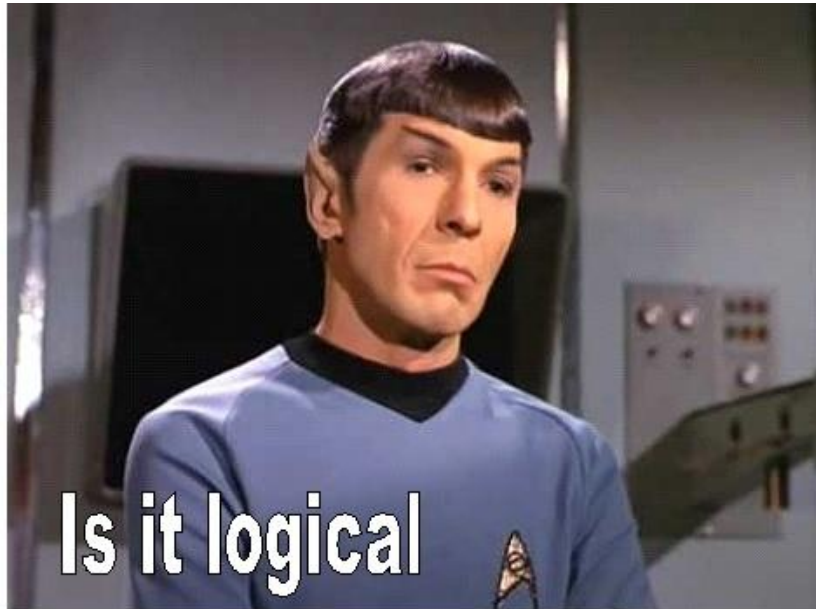
I don't trust them and I'm sure a lot of the industry doesn't either.

We trust in the Federation as they aren't afraid to say it the way it is.

I choose to be a member of the Federation and for them to speak on my behalf on issues I agree with. I don't choose to be under the Board's control - this is forced upon me.

I read the Fellow Practitioner because I choose to. I flick through the Info Brief just in case there is something I must

**WHATS THE LOGIC?**



The COVID-19 crisis has exposed the good and the bad and has posed a lot of questions. We saw someone had asked a six year old if he understood why there is no school - he said yes, because there is no toilet paper – referring to the panic buying of toilet paper.

It was logical to him - so what if we asked the question of ourselves 'Is the regulation of the industry leaving us exposed?'

We ask that because as the industry has to adapt to the crisis and COVID-19 requirements parts of the regulation of the industry are being exposed - for example supervision requirements.

The regulation of the industry by way of the qualifications structure has left us in an environment of 'supervision' that is dependent on Certifiers, so over this time of crisis is that supervision being performed appropriately?

This again highlights the two tier qualification system of Certifier and Tradesman where the Certifiers must take responsibility not only for their own work, but also the work done by everyone else, such as Tradesman registered practitioners, Journeyman registered practitioners, apprentices, exemption holders and labourers.

To us it really isn't logical. Tradesman registered practitioners are deemed workplace competent by way of their unit standards used to obtain the New Zealand Certificate in their trades, they have passed the Boards Tradesman registration exam and yet they are still required to be under supervision until they obtain the Certifiers

do to stay legal. I know a lot who receive stuff from the Board and stick it in their waste bin without reading it.

Having the right to choose is mine and if the Government and their cronies try to take away my rights then they will have their right to govern taken away from them come election time.

**ED:**

Thanks very much writer for your strong comments.

The Federation is pretty tough skinned but it's good to know practitioners are still out there and choose to support us.

We don't want to be like the Board where a non response is taken that everyone agrees with their schemes – we want peoples feedback as it's not about individual ideas it's about the collective good of the industry.

Remember the Board are there to regulate the industry. Tradespeople on the Board are simply there to provide their expertise when it comes to discipline and regulatory decisions.

The Board are not there for the good of the industry and appear to be easily influenced.

Perhaps some real leadership is required of the Board that would build the much needed trust the Board must have to be able to properly regulate the industry.

The leadership provided

registration or forever and a day if they don't.

If there was one qualification the industry could double or even triple the number of qualified practitioners that could supervise the apprentices and exemption holders. 'This is just one example of how the industry is exposed but what about cartels within the industry, what about influencers, what about industrial exemptions of industry groups and the list goes on.

There was meant to be a review of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006, 3 years after it was implemented which was 2010 b and here we are 10 years later and still we wait.

Our industry has been through hard times with regard to regulation and legislation and if hard times only make you stronger then we should be able to whip Superman's ass by now.

## UN Sung HEROES



The COVID-19 crisis has turned the country upside down and we hear the bureaucrats thanking all the front line staff for their efforts but having spent time in the armed forces it's very hard to determine a front line when the enemy is invisible.

We remember in days of old conventional warfare that for every person fighting on the front line it took four people to keep them in food, ammunition and the necessities of life.

ANZAC day has just passed and we remembered all those that have served and that are serving in the armed forces. We saw people standing at their driveways at 6AM on ANZAC Day paying their respects. We have never seen so many home made memorials and parents getting their children involved so memories can live on.

For us the efforts and sacrifice New Zealanders have put into helping beat the COVID-19 virus is in itself commendable and shows we are a country of unsung heroes. The actor Christopher Reeve (Superman) once said "I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

recently has done nothing but undermine the trust some of the industry has in the Board and the manner in which it regulates the industry.

### Dear Editor

In the last four weeks I have had more shit sent to me by government departments and the PGDB that I am absolutely over it.

I don't know what to believe or whose instructions to follow any more. The latest one I got was telling me to have toolbox talks about Covid and record down what we say and do.

Shit it's only me and the apprentice so what do they expect? I'll be spending more time talking rather than doing.

### ED:

We know exactly what you are saying and there is hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent on OSH needlessly in the industry' - but its big business that rules in this area.

Perhaps that's why some many of them are going bankrupt – money being wasted on bureaucracy.

Our advice is use common sense and write brief notes of conversations in a diary. We live in an environment of forced regulation and you need to cover your ass.

Taking those comments on board we want to single out those plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying practitioners that have risked their own health to help others.

Some practitioners have continued to be on call and have responded for the homes that have lost the use of their gas appliances, have had blocked drains and burst water pipes etc. They have gone on site where there could have been, or is, the invisible enemy of COVID-19.

We give all those practitioners a huge heartfelt thanks. We know you have all stepped up from the precautions you normally take and have taken the extra COVID-19 precautions but there has still been a risk and that risk will continue into the immediate future.

This crisis has highlighted the fact that plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers are the **unmentionable** trades. We do the things a lot of people don't like to discuss over the dinner table but expect us to be there all the time to meet their essential needs. Any conversation will normally be about the price they didn't want to pay for the essential service.

So to all you practitioners out there you can walk around with your heads held high knowing that you have done more for the health, safety and wellbeing of the public of New Zealand than most.

We also want you to remember we do this for the public **EVERY** day of the week, year in year out. We are professionals in what we do and should be extremely proud of ourselves and each other.

Of course we can't forget our suppliers who have kept the ammunition coming for us to fight the fight.

**You all have our thanks and gratitude.**