



Media Statement

Building Commission (Plumbers Licensing Board)

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Tradesman fined for unsupervised plumbing work

A tradesman has been fined in the Perth Magistrates' Court for undertaking plumbing work without the supervision of a licensed contractor.

Mr Peter Pizzino is a tradesperson licensed with the Board but was fined \$1,000 and ordered to pay costs of \$326.70 on Friday 25 September 2009 for undertaking plumbing work without the general direction and control of a licensed plumbing contractor.

The *Water Services Licensing (Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards) Regulations 2000*, administered by the Plumbers Licensing Board, requires plumbing work, undertaken by a tradesperson, to be supervised by a licensed plumbing contractor to ensure that the work is in accordance with standards to safeguard the interests of consumers.

The Board investigated a consumer complaint over plumbing work installed in a Morley residence in late 2007 and early 2008. The inspection revealed drainage plumbing work for the ground floor bathroom was not connected to the main drain and the sanitary plumbing stack was not correctly vented into or through the roof.

In August 2009 the Board issued a notice on behalf of the consumer for the plumbing work to be rectified. It was established that Mr Pizzino undertook the rectification work alone without seeking a licensed plumbing contractor to supervise and certify the plumbing work as required by the regulations.

Chairperson of the Plumbers Licensing Board Ms Judy Seif said the Board will pursue prosecution action against any person undertaking unlicensed plumbing work or a licensed person who acts outside the scope of their licence.

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Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Commerce**

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“The Pizzino case is not typical of the plumbing trade, but consumers and businesses should check the photographic licence card that is required to be carried at all times by a plumber to establish the identity, scope of work allowed and plumbing licence type. Tradespersons carry a white card and licensed plumbing contractors carry a silver card,” Ms Seif said

“The licensed plumbing contractor is required to certify the plumbing work at the completion of the job and provide the customer with a signed blue paper copy of the work undertaken by him or the tradesperson who undertook the work under the general direction and control of the licensed plumbing contractor.”

The Board has set up a Consumer Advice Line for plumbing trade customers to free call **1300 249 223** or email **plumbers@commerce.wa.gov.au** to check the status of any licence issued by the Board or to obtain advice on any aspect on the regulation of plumbing work. The Board’s publication *Having Plumbing Work Done?* is also available for customer assistance.

END OF RELEASE

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