



## Plumbers Licensing Board

Plumbing industry regulation and licensing exist to maintain the protection of public health and safety, by ensuring consumers of plumbing services employ suitably qualified tradespersons, thereby guarding the environment from the impact of unsuitable plumbing systems.

### Operations of the Plumbers Licensing Board:

- administer and approve applications for plumbing licences
- make recommendations to government on standards and competency requirements
- undertake disciplinary hearings, impose fines and suspend or cancel licences in the event of non-compliance with standards and regulatory requirements
- take action against unlicensed persons carrying out plumbing work.

Future operations of the Board relating to inspections, notifications and certification of plumbing work will be considered following industry consultation.

# Representing Your Interests

To ensure the interests of all key stakeholders are protected and advanced, the Plumbers Licensing Board is primarily comprised of industry members. Regulatory, training and consumer interests are also featured. The Minister for Water Resources, the Hon Dr Kim Hames MLA, appointed the following members to the Board on 19 of June 2000 for a term of office lasting until 31 May 2003.

### Chairperson **Mr Thomas Hall**

Nominated by the Master Plumbers and Mechanical Services Association (MPA) to represent the interests of the Association's country members, Mr Hall has been appointed Chairperson of the Plumbers Licensing Board. He is a self employed Licensed Plumber with 27 years experience in the industry. Operating from Bunbury, Mr Hall is the Immediate Past President of the MPA and current member of the Bunbury Water Board (Aqwest).

### Deputy Chairperson **Mr Paul Kelly**

In his role as Executive Director of the Office of Water Regulation, Mr Paul Kelly has played a pivotal role in the development of the Plumbers Licensing Board over the past three years. Mr Kelly was nominated to the Board by the State's Coordinator of Water Services and represents the interests of the Office of Water Regulation.

### Member **Mr Anthony Ballem**

Mr Anthony Ballem represents members of the Western Australian Drainage Association. Mr Ballem is a Licensed Plumber with 34 years experience in the industry. He has operated his own plumbing business since 1970 and is a Past President of the MPA.

### Member **Mr Jacob Bruinsma**

Appointed to represent the interests of independent country plumbers (non-MPA or Union affiliated) is Mr Jacob Bruinsma, a Licensed Plumber with 16 years experience in the plumbing industry. Mr Bruinsma operates his own business from the town of Morawa and has a background in the design and installation of plumbing systems.

### Member **Ms Anna Carlino**

Representing the interests of the training sector, Ms Anna Carlino is an Employment Training Officer with the Department of Training and Employment. Ms Carlino has extensive experience in the development of entry-level training programs and was nominated by the Minister of Employment and Training.

### Member **Ms Teresa D'Adamo**

Appointed to represent consumer interests is Ms Teresa D'Adamo, nominated by the Minister for Fair Trading. Ms D'Adamo is a legal practitioner with a strong interest in consumer issues.

### Member **Mr Michael Della Posta**

Representing metropolitan members of the MPA is Mr Michael Della Posta. Past President and Past Executive Committee Member of the MPA, Mr Della Posta is a Licensed Plumber, operating from Perth's suburb of Jolimont, with 23 years experience in the plumbing industry.

### Member **Mr Seamus Doherty**

Members of the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union (WA Plumbing Division) are represented by Mr Seamus Doherty, a Registered Plumber with 26 years experience in the plumbing industry. Mr Doherty is the WA Plumbing Division Branch Secretary.

### Member **Mr Garry Dunbar**

Representing the interests of independent metropolitan plumbers (non-MPA or Union affiliated) is Mr Garry Dunbar, a self-employed Licensed Plumber, operating from the Perth suburb of Kinross. He has 21 years experience in the plumbing industry covering all aspects of plumbing work, and has been employed in the role of supervisor with various plumbing businesses.

To ensure the interests of all key stakeholders are protected and advanced...



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# Plumbers

volume 1 issue 1 June 2000

## Licensing Board News

Advancing the interests of industry members, consumers and the wider community

# welcome

Welcome to *Plumbers Licensing Board News*. This issue has been produced and distributed by the Office of Water Regulation and provides an introduction to the newly appointed members of the Board and information on the Board's role and key responsibilities.

Please note that under the regulations of the *Water Services Coordination Amendment Act (1999)*, Registered Plumbers are now referred to as *Licensed Tradespersons*.



*Plumbers Licensing Board News* will be regularly issued to all Licensed Plumbers and Licensed Tradespersons to ensure awareness of the Board's activities.

This publication will carry announcements of news affecting the industry and provide updates on the latest national and international developments impacting on the plumbing industry, including changes to plumbing standards.

Your input and feedback is important to the Board and may highlight matters that should be included in future editions of *Plumbers Licensing Board News*.

To provide feedback to the Plumbers Licensing Board and input to newsletter content please contact:

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**Plumbers Licensing Board**  
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The establishment of the Plumbers Licensing Board provides the first opportunity for the State's Licensed Plumbers and Licensed Tradespersons to influence the development and direction of the plumbing industry in Western Australia.

## Benefits for Licensed Plumbers and Licensed Tradespersons

- *registered plumbers will be known as Licensed Tradespersons to more accurately reflect the nature of their work*
- **all Licensed Plumbers and Licensed Tradespersons will have an ongoing opportunity to participate in matters affecting the industry through a representative Board**
- **all Licensed Plumbers and Licensed Tradespersons will be regularly informed by the Board of the latest developments affecting their industry, including changes to plumbing standards**
- **all Licensed Plumbers and Licensed Tradespersons will benefit from the implementation of restrictions against unqualified persons engaging in plumbing activities**
- **consumers and the environment will receive greater protection against the impact of unsafe plumbing systems, leading to improved consumer confidence and the promotion of a more professional industry profile.**

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For many years, Licensed Plumbers have had the responsibility of certifying that their work meets recognised standards and legislative requirements. However, Government administered all aspects of licensing and registration without the benefit of ongoing industry representation.

The Plumbers Licensing Board ensures that plumbers are provided with a real opportunity to participate in matters affecting their industry, including the development of training courses and recognition of qualifications.

## Market Protection for Licensed Plumbers and Licensed Tradespersons

The Board will continue to engage in industry-wide consultation with the aim of developing and implementing a range of measures that will achieve the greater protection of the status of all Licensed Plumbers and Licensed Tradespersons, and an improved profile for the whole industry throughout the community. For example, the Board will establish an accurate record of all plumbing tradespersons in Western Australia and provide improved identification

systems for Licensed Plumbers and Licensed Tradespersons.

Action will be taken as appropriate against unlicensed persons and a public education campaign launched to ensure consumers are aware of the risks involved, in terms of both safety and insurance, of having plumbing work undertaken by unlicensed and unqualified 'handymen'.

## Establishment and Funding of the Plumbers Licensing Board

### Establishing the Board

The Plumbers Licensing Board has been formed in response to Federal and State Government policies, which required the separation of service provision and regulatory functions in the Western Australian Water Industry. This development led to the restructure of the industry and the removal of licensing activities from the Water Corporation, which as a service provider, can no longer perform a regulatory role.

Through consultation with all stakeholders, it was determined that members of the plumbing industry should have the ability to provide regular input to the future development of the industry. Government and industry groups agreed to the establishment of the Plumbers Licensing Board on the basis that it be self-funding, with all members of the plumbing industry contributing through the payment of licence fees.

The new fee structure agreed to by all parties involved in the consultation process, (\$200 for Licensed Plumbers and a \$75 fee to be phased in for Licensed Tradespersons), is in line with arrangements made in other States, for example, the Victorian Plumbing Industry Commission. Licence fees are GST exempt and tax deductible.

## Consultation with Industry

Widespread consultation occurred at all stages of establishing Western Australia's Plumbers Licensing Board. Issues raised through this process of consultation helped shape the composition of the Board, its role and operations.

- More than 2000 copies of the 1997 Discussion Paper: Proposal to Establish an Independent Plumber Licensing Board were mailed to every licensed plumber in the State.
- The WA Plumbing Division of the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union received 400 copies of the paper for distribution to members.
- Copies of the paper were distributed to key government agencies, local government authorities and relevant industry associations, with other stakeholders and interested consumers receiving copies on request.
- Public comment on the proposal was sought through advertisements placed in metropolitan and rural press.

Public forums were conducted in city and regional centres to provide an opportunity for clarification and feedback on the detail of the proposal.

## Key Responsibilities of the Plumbers Licensing Board

### Maintaining the Quality of Standards and Services

The key focus of the Plumbers Licensing Board is to ensure the use of suitably qualified plumbers and the maintenance of appropriate standards of quality, service and competency through industry regulation and licensing.

### Representing the Interests of Plumbers and Consumers of Plumbing Services

To ensure that the interests of all key stakeholders are protected and advanced by the Plumbers Licensing Board, industry representatives make up the majority of members. Other members represent the regulatory and training sectors, and consumer interests.