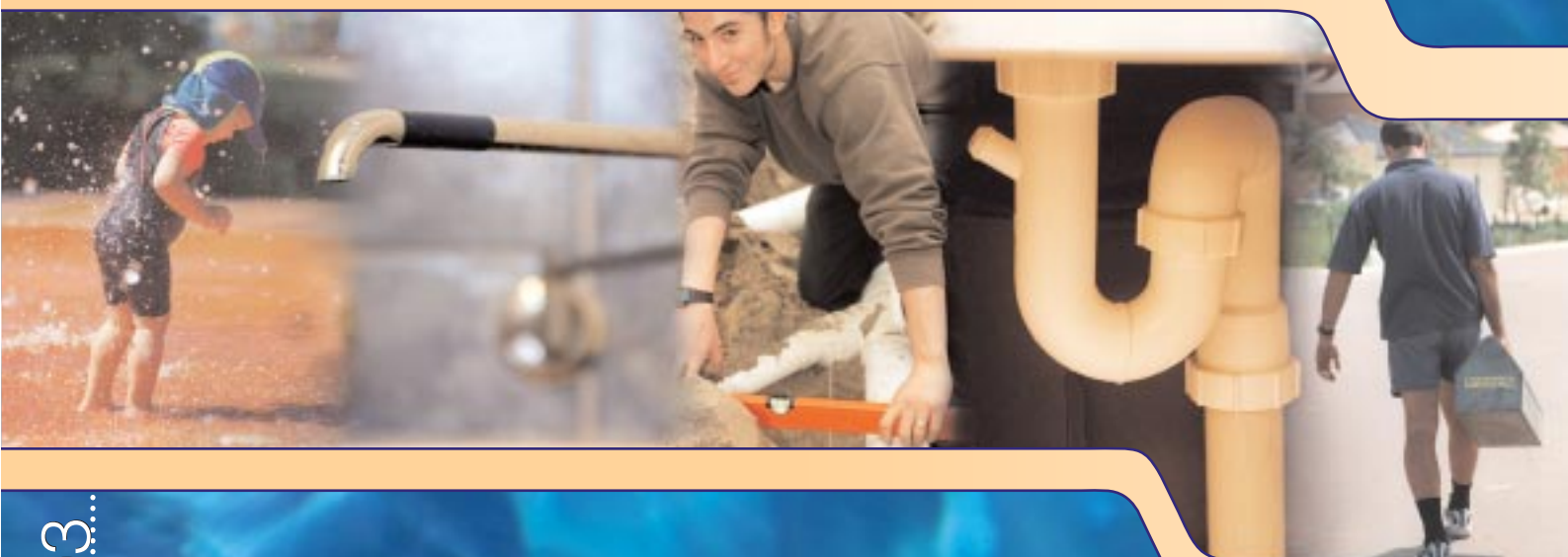




Plumbers Licensing Board  
Government of Western Australia

Ground Floor Forrest Centre 219 St Georges Terrace Perth Western Australia 6000 Tel (08) 9282 0478 Fax (08) 9282 0863 [www.docep.wa.gov.au/plumbers](http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/plumbers)

# PLUMBERS



.....issue 7 December 2003.....

## Licensing Board News

A competent and professional plumbing  
industry in Western Australia

# A New Strategic Direction



The strategic direction of the Plumbers Licensing Board for the 3 year period to 2006 has been set. The Board's Strategic Plan 2003-2006 outlines key strategies to ensure the implementation of a statewide compliance and inspection framework, that will transfer regulatory responsibility for the performance of plumbing work, as well as provide for effective communication channels between the plumbing industry and the Board.

As highlighted within the Plan reducing the incidents of plumbing work carried out by

unlicensed persons continues to be a priority for the Board along with maintaining and enhancing the competency standards of all licensees.

The Board has retained its vision to achieve a *competent and professional plumbing industry in Western Australia*.

To obtain a copy of the Board's Strategic Plan 2003-2006 contact the Board's Publications Officer, Kelly Whitfield, on 9282 0478 or email [plumbers@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:plumbers@docep.wa.gov.au).

## New Board Members

Four new members have recently been appointed to the Board. They are:

**Bernard Bruton** is a licensed plumbing contractor with more than 31 years experience in the industry. He has operated his own plumbing business for more than 10 years and represents the interests of independent metropolitan plumbing contractors.

**Christopher Jones** is a licensed plumbing contractor with more than 30 years experience. He has operated his own plumbing business in the Pilbara Region since 1992 and represents the interest of independent country plumbing contractors.

**Joanne Parnell** represents the interests of consumers. Joanne has a background in business administration and has a keen interest in consumer issues.

**Brian Rushton** represents the metropolitan members of the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association. Brian is a licensed plumbing contractor with more than 30 years experience in the plumbing industry.

Thanks are extended to outgoing founding members of the Board, Michael Della Posta, John Bruinsma and Garry Dunbar.

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

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## 2003 Plumbing Industry Forums

Over the months of September, October and November the Plumbers Licensing Board held a series of 12 plumbing industry forums. Four forums were held in the metropolitan area and regional forums were held in Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Busselton, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and Karratha. The purpose of the forums was to provide an overview of the new compliance and inspection framework for the plumbing industry as well as provide an update on other recent regulatory changes.

More than 600 industry members attended the forums and provided valuable feedback. The forums also provided those that attended with an opportunity to meet and discuss regulatory issues with members of the Board.

## New Compliance and Inspection Framework

In mid-2004 a new statewide compliance and inspection framework for the plumbing industry will commence operating. The establishment of the new framework will result in the transfer of regulatory responsibility for the performance of internal plumbing work from licensed water service providers and local government authorities.

The framework will restructure the way in which the performance of plumbing work is monitored in this State however the system will not change significantly to that which is currently in place.

The focus of the framework will not only be on the plumbing work carried out but also on assisting members of the plumbing industry in complying with statutory requirements. The Board has committed

itself to establishing a technical enquiry line as part of the new framework. All industry members will be able to contact a plumbing inspector through a dedicated enquiry line to seek advice on any technical matter related to plumbing work. This service will be free to access and will be available during normal working hours.

The new compliance and inspection framework will provide for:

- Random audits of plumbing work performed;
- Random checks of licensed plumbing contractors;
- Investigation of workmanship complaints relating to plumbing work; and
- The undertaking of other compliance related activities that may lead to prosecutions and disciplinary inquiries.

To ensure all licensed industry members are aware of the regulatory requirements under the new framework, the Board will be producing a detailed booklet early next year. The booklet will be distributed to all licensed plumbing contractors and licensed tradespersons. For any enquiries about the new compliance and inspection framework contact the Senior Project Officer, Jean Villani, on 9282 0478 or email [plumbers@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:plumbers@docep.wa.gov.au).



## Plumbing Inspector Positions

As part of the implementation of the new compliance and inspection framework the Plumbers Licensing Board, through the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection, will be seeking to employ six (6) compliance officers (plumbing inspectors) and one (1) senior compliance officer.

To be eligible to apply an applicant must have qualifications to obtain a plumbing contractor's licence issued by the Plumbers Licensing Board and possess a very good knowledge and understanding of the plumbing standards.

It is planned that the positions will be advertised early next year. Advertisements will appear in the Government Appointments section of the Saturday edition of the West



Australian and the Weekend Australian newspapers. Further details relating to the positions will not be available until they have been advertised.

## Drainage Traineeship



The Western Australian Drainage Association (WADA) in partnership with the Department of Education and Training and the Building and Construction Industry Training Council have established a 'traineeship' in drainage plumbing. The drainage traineeship is based on the Certificate II in Services (Drainage) that is part of the recently endorsed National Services Training Package.

This initiative enables licensed plumbing contractors with authorisations in drainage plumbing to employ trainees allowing people into the industry at entry level to be trained in drainage plumbing only.

The Board accepted a proposal from the WADA at its meeting on 25 August 2003 to recognise the new drainage traineeship for the purpose of issuing a tradespersons licence in drainage plumbing. Regulations are being drafted that will allow trainees to carry out drainage plumbing work and be issued with a tradespersons licence (drainage plumbing) following successful completion of the traineeship.

# Regulation Changes

On 12 September 2003 several amendments were made to the Water Services Coordination (Plumbers Licensing) Regulations 2000, "the Regulations". The following amendments were made:

## Licence Terminology

The licence terminology "plumber's licence" has been changed to "plumbing contractor's licence". This means that all licensed plumbers are now known as licensed plumbing contractors. This change in terminology will be reflected in licence cards that will be issued for the 2004/2005 licence year.

## Maintenance of Register

A mandatory register of persons performing plumbing work is now required to be kept. This means that all licensed plumbing contractors must keep a record of all persons engaged to carry out plumbing work on behalf of the licensed plumbing contractor. The Register is to record prescribed details including the licensed plumbing contractor's name, licence number and the name and address of those people engaged. An example of the form of the Register to be used is below. Enclosed with this newsletter is a sample of the form and a copy can be obtained from the Board's website at [www.docep.wa.gov.au/plumbers](http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/plumbers).

## Plumbers Licensing Board Western Australia

*Water Services Coordination (Plumbers Licensing) Regulations 2000 (as amended)  
Regulation 25B*

### Licensed Plumbing Contractor

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Licence No: PL\_\_\_\_\_

### EMPLOYEE/CONTRACTOR RECORD

Surname	Given Names	Address	Licence Class ie: Plumbing Contractor/ Tradesperson/ Apprentice	Licence No. ie: PL/TL	Date Commenced	Date Ceased

### Advertising of Licence Number

Licence numbers are now required to appear in all advertising, business documentation, including quotes, business letters and receipts. Advertising includes signage on vehicles, buildings, plant and machinery.

### General Direction and Control

The Board's disciplinary powers have been expanded to allow the Board to hold a disciplinary inquiry where a licensed tradesperson fails to work under the general direction and control of the holder of a plumbing contractor's licence and also where a licensed plumbing contractor fails to exercise general direction and control over a licensed tradesperson.

**Summary of complaints received**  
July-November 2003

Type	Total Received	Justified	Not Justified	Still Under Investigation
Unsatisfactory workmanship	16	6	3	7
Alleged unlicensed plumbing	26	10	2	14

**Prosecutions for Breaches of the Water Services Coordination  
(Plumbers Licensing) Regulations 2000**  
July-November 2003

Breaches of the Regulations are not dealt with by the Board, but are referred to the courts for determination.

Breach	Name	Lic. No	Fine & Court Costs (\$)
Carried out unlicensed plumbing work	John Edward James	N/A	\$687.70
Carried out unlicensed plumbing work	Michael Raymond Thomas Jelly	N/A	\$887.70
Carried out plumbing work not under the general direction and control of the holder of a plumbing contractor's licence	Donald Gary Young	TL8568	\$887.70
Carried out unlicensed plumbing work (Four counts)	Geoff Bryan Hume	N/A	\$4,277.70

**Disciplinary Inquiries held by the Plumbers Licensing Board  
in accordance with the Water Services Coordination  
(Plumbers Licensing) Regulations 2000**  
July-November 2003

Breaches of plumbing standards are determined by the Board.

Disciplinary Matter	Date	Name of Licensee	Outcome
Failure to comply with By-law 16.1*	25 February 2002 (Board Decision)	Michael Della Posta	Appeal allowed. Local court magistrate found a disciplinary matter had occurred. No action taken.
	4 July 2002 (Appeal Hearing)		

\* of the *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage By-laws 1981* (Sanitary & Drainage Plumbing), which adopts AS/NZS3500 as the mandatory standard.

