

2004 Australian National Plumbing Forum

This series of reports summarise the papers presented to the 2004 Australian National Plumbing Forum held 3 to 4 September 2004 at the Sheraton Perth Hotel, Perth Western Australia and also provide conclusions reached by the attending Plumbing Professionals from Australia and the World. The Forum was hosted by the Institute of Plumbing Australia Incorporated.

Note: The following has been transcribed and condensed from audio recordings and notes of the forum proceedings and not from written papers provided by the speakers. As such, matters in these reports do not constitute advice of any kind but provide a general overview of items discussed. Anyone reproducing, quoting or acting in any way on items contained herein do so at their own risk.

FORUM OUTCOMES

The following outcomes are gleaned from forum discussions held on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 September 2004. Although they are each a majority view of the attending plumbing professionals they are not in all cases a unanimous view. The reader(s) should make their own view of the following items.

1. There is a need for increased vigilance in maintaining trap seals in plumbing systems.
2. Plumbing codes and regulations must include for automatic charging of trap seals where no fixture is permanently connected to such trap.
3. There is a need to investigate locations of sewer vent terminals in relation to air intakes and other openings into buildings.
4. Plumbing codes and regulations should include for all commercial and industrial properties to prepare and maintain a water management plan as part of building approval requirements.
5. There is a need for point of sale control on non-approved plumbing products.
6. The plumbing industry should liaise with the insurance industry to increase policy requirements in relation to the installation of non-approved plumbing products.
7. There is a need to review health and safety requirements for plumbers working on live sewers in relation to air borne viruses such as the SARS Corona virus.
8. Plumbing regulators should introduce and maintain a system of continued professional development (CPD) for all plumbers.
9. Plumbing apprentice training should include the underpinning knowledge of plumbing.
10. Career paths in plumbing should start in high school years 11 and 12 and continue well beyond licensed plumber.
11. Funding for training needs to reflect the needs of item 10 above.
12. There is a need for independent (third party) end of apprenticeship assessments, plumbing license assessments, plumbing diploma level assessments to assure industry acceptable standards are being achieved from employers and training providers.