

E – INSTITUTE

The Official Newsletter of IPA



The Institute of Plumbing
Australia Incorporated

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Promoting Consistency in all things Plumbing

2009 Australian National Plumbing Forum - Sydney

At the recent Forum held in Sydney the Institute asked Industry to look at the benefits of improving liaison between regulators, designers and contractors. From the original discussions on where each part of a project interacted with others the open panel/forum tended to concentrate on the current industry discussions on a plumbing diploma for designers and where this sits in the overall scheme of things.

Institute of Plumbing Australia President Michael Jarrad sums up:

Firstly, I'd like to thank all members of the Forum Panel on your contribution to the IPA's National Plumbing Forum at DesignBuild 2009.

Your ideas, opinions and audience response gave the IPA committee hours of further discussion, on the direction that the Plumbing Industry (with the inclusion of a Diploma course) might take and the outcomes which it may provide.

It became clear (during Forum discussions) that there are still differences of opinions on some issues relating to entry pathways to the proposed Diploma course for "Designers".

In June 2008 (DesignBuild – Melbourne) at the IPA National Plumbing Forum it was unanimously agreed by all present to form a 'working party' to include a Diploma course in the upcoming revised training package, due for release the following year. This course was fast tracked, (*with little or no input from other (interstate) members of the AHSCA, or IPA outside of NSW*), and as much as all parties present at that Forum wanted the Diploma course included into the Plumbing Training Package for a 2009 release (it has been on the agenda for many years), this fast tracking only got half the job done, and will continue to fail without full consultation from the Plumbing Industry and in particular design offices who are likely to be the future employee's of the Diploma graduates.

During our (IPA) discussions we came to the conclusion that maybe part of the problem is simply "all in the wording" of

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what this Diploma course is named!!!!

LETS NOT KID OURSELVES:- Non-apprentices who enrol and complete the Diploma course will be "Plumbing Designers" – **NOT** - "Plumbing Consultants". This may change should the non-apprentice complete the appropriate and required training (ie; minimum of Certificate's 1, 2 & 3) and have provided many years of experience in this field.

As a minimum for entry to the Certificate 4 for non-apprentices would be a pass in English, Maths and basic Cad. The Cad course would give both the employee and the employer a minimum starting point. The future employer would have the opportunity to employ someone with initial skills to begin work, and the employee gets an opportunity to use those skills for further advancement through the Certificate 4 course. Both the Certificate 4 and the Diploma should include (if it does not already) electives such as; contract law, 'on-site' work experience, building management, estimating and other management competency's .

The childish "us against them" mentality needs to be replaced, with positive consultation. No "group" is better or worse than the other. There is a great need for both 'contractors and designers' within our Plumbing Industry. We don't live in a perfect world so let's put all the ego's and 'hidden agenda's aside and work together towards providing a better, stronger Plumbing Industry.

Editors Note:

At its Forum in Melbourne 2008 the IPA promoted discussion on allowing entry into the Plumbing Diploma at Certificate IV level for Cadet Plumbing Designers as a means of relieving a skills shortage in that area. This was envisaged as a fairly simple exercise that appeared to have industry support and with assistance from the Industry Skills Council was tracking for introduction in the 2009 year. The Institute of Plumbing Australia has always supported clear pathways for a plumber coming up through Certificate III or a designer coming in at Certificate IV each achieving a Diploma of Plumbing of equal standing.

Congratulations Caroma:

Standards Australia recently announced the results of their 2009 Australian International Design Awards and from UP the official magazine of Standards Australia we see that Institute of Plumbing Australia Industrial Associate member Caroma Dorf picked up an Australian International Design Award for their Caroma Invisi II Toilet Suite, well done Caroma.

Recently Published Australian Standard:

AS 3571 Plastics piping systems – Glass-reinforced thermoplastics (GRP) systems based on unsaturated polyester resin:

Part 1: Pressure and non-pressure drainage and sewerage.

Part 2: Pressure and non-pressure water supply.

Your input into this Newsletter and other IPA matters is always welcome and in fact sort after. If you are not already a member why not join and really help us provide a voice for plumbers and plumbing. Simply email the Secretary below.

Comments on matters raised in E-INSTITUTE or suggestions for future issues are welcome and may be sent to the Editor at:

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