

# E – INSTITUTE

## The Official Newsletter of IPA



The Institute of Plumbing  
Australia Incorporated

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Promoting Consistency in all things Plumbing

### Report:

#### PRESIDENTS REPORT to the 2012 Annual General Meeting

Members,

It's that time of the year when we can all sit back, (relax) and reflect on the "comings and goings" of the past twelve months, what was or was not achieved in 2011 and what is waiting for us in 2012.

Did I say relax!!!! If you are like me the work load has not decreased.

What a year. It has been a year of success and moving forward.

You are probably sick of me saying this, but I know I don't speak alone when I say again, many thanks to Stephen Movley for his undying passion and work ethic for the Plumbing Industry and in particular the IPA & WPC.

The IPA's role as Secretariat of the World Plumbing Council has come to an end with Stephen currently tidying up the loose ends after passing along all the necessary paper-work to the new incoming secretariat.

Over the past 12mths, the IPA has sat on many committees' and Stephen has represented the IPA well on all committee's and sub-committee's on which he has attended together with Peter Wenning who now represents IPA on the Skills Council Reference Group.

It is great to get together with other councillors for 'face to face' meetings, and they have been successful as I am sure the Council Meeting running with the AGM today will prove to be.

I believe that the Building style Trade Show / Expo functions and these types of events have run their course for the IPA and there are more useful seminars/forums/expos which would serve the IPA better.

As a national organisation the Institute of Plumbing Australia provides active input into

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what is occurring now and for the future of the Plumbing Industry. We (IPA) have been lucky to have a person, who has been in a position to attend and sit on boards/committees for a wide variety of plumbing related functions. As some of you know Stephen's wife has been going through a bit of a health scare over the past 18 months and Stephen has indicated on several occasions that once the IPA have finished the role of secretariat for the WPC, he will be looking to step back(down) so as to spend more time with his wife & family. This will create rather large shoes to fill. It is my belief that the IPA has many members who, (either individually or as a team) can provide this continued vital function of attending these committee's and providing an ongoing say for our members/future members and the industry as a whole.

The Plumbing Code of Australia is finally about to happen with its introduction into the National Construction Code (part 3). Some of you may know that one of the main reasons that Plumbing is the 'first cab off the rank' in this new Code is because the document was already written in the NCC /BCA format, and required only minor changes to fit into the new NCC. The new NCC will be brought into play at varying times throughout the country.

I was fortunate enough to attend the National Plumbing Regulators Forum in Melbourne (early March 2011), where I met many people who have similar passion for the Plumbing Industry (not all Plumbers, Lecturers or Regulators). I also became *more aware* of how differently each state & territory, currently conduct plumbing, plumbing training, and promoting plumbing. It was clear to me that the Victorian Plumbing Industry (as a whole) are very much in the forefront of what is happening not only Nationally but globally. Maybe this is an opportunity for the IPA to reinforce our role in our industry and be a little more pro-active in promoting our very important role as plumbers (how many attended 'World Plumbing Day Functions'??? Or even knew about it?? ) This is one area where the IPA can promote this great industry we are involved with.

What is the direction of the IPA?? There has been a fair amount of talk within the Institute Council of where the IPA is heading. The IPA has been around for over 50yrs., (with members in each state & territory) and although not as big or as strong as it once was it is still here. There are many reasons for this including the dedication, passion and enjoyment that we get from being involved with this industry/profession.

As the number of members seem to be in decline it is my belief that 'State Chapters' are a thing of the past, so may I suggest that one of the most important issues in moving forward is to review the structure of the IPA . Just remember; "*you only get out what you put in*".(easy to say, harder to achieve with work & family commitments – but let's all try)

Keep an eye open in upcoming E-Institute newsletters for dates and further information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the council and all our members and supporters for your support over the past twelve months.

Michael Jarrad. MIPA, MAHSCA  
President Institute of Plumbing Australia  
28 April 2012



## **Licensing Authority embraces commitment and clarity on occupational licensing reforms**

The Chair of the National Occupational Licensing Authority's Board (NOLA), Elizabeth Crouch, has welcomed statements by business and government leaders reaffirming their commitment to reform of Australia's occupational licensing system.

Ms Crouch said "the NOLA Board is heartened by the statements made by both business and government leaders" at the Council of Australian Governments' Business Advisory Forum on 12 April and the formal COAG meeting on 13 April 2012.

The COAG Business Advisory Forum members stated that, along with occupational health and safety reforms, national licensing "would make major inroads into business costs and deliver significant improvements to productivity"<sup>1</sup>.

"In reaffirming its commitment to the reforms, COAG has offered welcome clarity to industry and tradespeople by announcing that the first wave of national licences will now be introduced from 2013", stated Ms Crouch. This first wave includes electrical, plumbing and gasfitting, refrigeration and air-conditioning, and property occupations. In their official statement, COAG members noted that the complexity of the reforms made it impossible for national occupational licensing to commence from 1 July 2012. Instead, the system will now start in 2013.

"In confirming this new timeframe, COAG has provided certainty to businesses and individuals who are waiting for the introduction of this reform" Ms Crouch said. "Now we can proceed with the important job of talking with businesses and tradespeople to ensure that the new national licensing scheme maximises benefits for all such as improved labour mobility and better productivity."

Significant progress has already been made in preparing for the reforms. Six out of eight COAG jurisdictions have already passed the *Occupational Licensing National Law Act (2010)*, giving the legislative mandate for the National Occupational Licensing Authority (NOLA).

Work will now proceed on developing a clear formal statement on the benefits and costs of the reforms for consideration by the states and territories. The statement will also be used for a formal consultation period, including public meetings, which will be conducted in mid 2012.

"The NOLA Board is moving quickly to establish the new Authority which will be based in Sydney", Ms Crouch said. "Work is also progressing on the development of a new national licensing register that will allow anyone to check whether a person holds the licence that they say they do". This new system will greatly assist individuals and businesses who work across state boundaries.

"The Australian economy will benefit from national licensing as greater labour mobility and increased efficiency increases overall output and competitiveness. We are keen to work with industry and other stakeholders to ensure government gets this reform working for Australia" Ms Crouch stated.

*Media contact: Elizabeth Crouch, Chair, National Occupational Licensing Authority, 0419 868 684.*

<sup>1</sup> Council of Australian Governments Business Advisory Forum *Communiqué*, 12 April 2012



April 5, 2012

## **Fast track plan could compromise skills**

Master Plumbers Australia Ltd (MPA Ltd) is warning the federal government and Skills Minister Senator Chris Evans that their plan to fast track the recognition of US construction workers could compromise the quality of plumbers and gasfitters in Australia. MPA Ltd Secretary Paul Naylor said the government should work closely with industry and proceed with caution.

"Australian trained plumbers and gasfitters are amongst the most highly trained and skilled in the world. In a number of other countries the skills of a plumber fall well short of the full list of competencies undertaken in the four year term of apprentice plumbers and gasfitters in Australia," said Mr Naylor

"We represent all Master Plumbers organisations across Australia. We are proud of our reputation around the world for our strong licensing system and the quality of our regulatory system for plumbers and gasfitters. We need to ensure that benchmark is not lowered in order to address the skills shortages. If we let this happen ultimately it will be the Australian consumers who suffer because we will have under-skilled workers carrying out sub-standard work."

Mr Naylor said MPA Ltd has been working closely with VETASSESS in an attempt to lift the bar in assessing migrant plumbers and gasfitters to ensure their qualifications are consistently mapped against Australian trade qualifications and licensing regimes.

"We think that industry operated off shore assessment centres may be the only real solution to maintaining the assessment level and the federal government needs to seriously consider how it can work with the industry to facilitate this process.

"We are more than willing to work with Minister Evans to establish a robust assessment process which will assess plumbers and gasfitters in their home country to make sure that they have assured industry acceptance and the necessary skills to match demands of the Australian construction industry before they relocate here."

-ends-

Media contact: Tony Monaghan, The Brand Agency 0428 280 593



## **Steady steady as Western Australia looks to adopt the Plumbing Code's Alternate Solution provisions:**

### **Plumbing Industry Reference Group 17 April 2012 Communiqué**

The Plumbing Industry Reference Group (PIRG) operates with members invited by the Building Commission to act on a voluntary basis to assist by providing the Building Commission (the Commission) and the Plumbers Licensing Board (the Board) with expert comment and current trade advice

The PIRG held its second meeting of 2012 on 17 April. The focus of the meeting was to discuss matters relevant to the adoption of alternative solution provisions in Western Australia and the definition of plumbing work.

#### ***Alternative Solutions***

While the adoption of the alternative solution provisions of the *Plumbing Code of Australia* is seen as beneficial to the Western Australian plumbing industry, the PIRG identified a number of areas where consideration needed to be given to the procedures and guidelines to be developed prior to the provisions being enacted. Areas for consideration include:

- the definition of a recognised expert
- the creation of a committee to consider alternative solutions
- the role building surveyors should have in the approvals process, and
- the role Conformity Assessment Bodies should have in the process where the application relates to a specific product.

The PIRG will continue to consider these matters and other matters relevant to alternative solution provisions out of session.

#### ***The Definition of Plumbing Work***

The PIRG identified a number of areas where the plumbing regulations in Western Australia do not adopt as plumbing work areas covered by the Australian Standards for Plumbing and Drainage (AS3500) or the *Plumbing Code of Australia*.

The PIRG has determined to draft a list of recommendations on additional areas of plumbing work that could be regulated in Western Australia.

#### **Making Comment on Matters Relevant to the PIRG**

Interested parties are invited to contact the Building Commission on (08) 9476 1354 to discuss any matters they would like considered by the PIRG. Alternatively, you may discuss your issues directly with members of the PIRG.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the PIRG is scheduled for 17 July 2012.

#### **Participating Members at the 17 April 2012 Meeting**

Gerald McDonald	Plumbers Licensing Board
Graham Raynor	Independent Education Advisor
Max Garbin	Department of Education and Training
Christopher Young	Golden State Plumbing
Stephen Movley	The Institute of Plumbing Australia Inc.

Ron Duffield	Independent Education Advisor	
Geoff Kelly	Kelly's Plumbing & Gas	
Paul Troiani	Austech	
Andrew Okines	Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association WA	
Tim Swift	Pipeline Hydraulics	

## **WORLD PLUMBING COUNCIL EDUCATION & TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP 2012**

World Plumbing Council Chairman GP Russ Chaney has announced applications are invited from individuals involved in plumbing industry training wishing to visit another country for the purpose of researching and furthering plumbing training and skills development.

The recipients of the scholarship in 2010 and 2011 are great examples of the diversity that is available through the WPC Education and Training Scholarship Program. In 2010 Robert Goodchild of Perth, Western Australia, travelled to South Africa and as a part of his study tour visited a township of some 33,000 people with a poor water supply, few toilets and no sewerage, with little or no infrastructure to support sustainable living for that community. His report illustrated the value of a well qualified and trained plumber supported by an effective regulatory system.

The 2011 recipient Chintan Daiya of Mumbai, India, chose to visit Singapore, which boasts a highly developed water reclamation system (NEWater) and desalination system to ensure adequate water supply for the well developed and populous island state.

Mr Daiya went onto say that the WPC Education & Training Scholarship provides an excellent opportunity for an individual to witness and learn about issues of public health and environmental sustainability in another country, while considering the training mechanisms and structures to support these observations.

WPC Executive Board Director Rich Prospal, Chairman of the WPC Education & Training Standing Committee, commented "The WPC Education & Training Scholarship opens a multitude of opportunities for the recipient. If only to broaden your horizons on how things are done in other parts of the world or to immerse yourself into a different culture or to make new friends is a great learning/teaching experience. The whole idea is to expand the thought that plumbing is important in everyone's health and everyday life."

The value of the WPC Education and Training Scholarship is up to US\$10,000, which covers the costs associated with return travel, lodging, meals and incidentals. The World Plumbing Council initiated the Education and Training Scholarship in 2003 and it continues to this day to be one of the most

beneficial programs offered by the WPC to the plumbing industry at large.

Please visit [www.worldplumbing.org](http://www.worldplumbing.org) click on Communications then Education & Training Scholarship to see the reports of previous recipients and to download an application for the 2012 Scholarship.

Applications close on the 31st July 2012.

IPA Members and Readers do you know a plumbing trainer that may be interested in applying? Or maybe you have access to a training establishment if so please circulate this message.

Thank you for your support.

### **World Plumbing Council to meet in Australia**

A General Meeting of the World Plumbing Council will be held in Brisbane, Australia on the 21st/22nd October 2012 to be followed by an Australian Plumbing Industry Conference in Cairns, Queensland, the gateway to the Barrier Reef.

More information on the World Plumbing Council at [www.worldplumbing.org](http://www.worldplumbing.org)

Information on the Australasian International Plumbing Conference can be found at [www.plumbingconference.com.au](http://www.plumbingconference.com.au)

### **Selection and Sizing of Copper Tubes for Water Piping Systems**

[Selection and Sizing of Copper Tubes for Water Piping Systems](#) by Barrie Smith (the blue book) is now available in both DVD and E-Book download, visit [www.plumbing.org.au](http://www.plumbing.org.au) and follow the links.

#### **NOTE:**

**Companion Spreadsheet now available, see [www.plumbing.org.au](http://www.plumbing.org.au) for details and FREE Download. (follow the button links or click on **Technical Book Sales** and scroll to bottom of page for **Spreadsheet Files****

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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