



Plumbers,

Gasfitters and

Drainlayers Board

Annual Report

Year ended 31 March 2007





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The Board



Rod Miller Chairman



Flora Gilkison Deputy Chair



Neil Burrow



David Coxhead



Penelope Nicholas



Marj Noble



Graham Owen



Anthony Salisbury



Paul Warren

The Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board is a body corporate constituted under the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 1976, which is administered by the Ministry of Health. Among its functions the Board is responsible for arranging examinations, dealing with applications for registration, making recommendations concerning education or training, ensuring adequate levels of competence (of gasfitters and gas inspectors), exercising disciplinary powers and instituting prosecutions for the breach of any Act or regulations relating to sanitary plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying.

Services performed by plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers have a direct effect on health and safety, the integrity of certain public network utilities, the gas supply and the wider environment. Through its various activities the Board seeks to promote and safeguard the health and safety of people, their property and the environment.

Statement of Purpose



To protect consumer health and safety in New Zealand by ensuring that plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers are competent and licensed.

Chairman's Message



The current Board's term commenced in July 2006, from the outset it was always going to be a challenging year with a new group of highly skilled Board members appointed to address a number of industry issues.

First up was the issue in relation to annual examinations. The Board's decision to implement a mid year option for examinations commencing in June 2007, was based on the belief that candidates should have more flexibility to gain their qualifications. The Board anticipates the new mid year examinations will be well received.

This year the Registrar and I have developed a strong working relationship with the Industry Training Organisation through its Chairman and C.E.O. This assists greatly to identify issues in relation to training needs. Apprentices and trainees must commit to training, learning and study programmes. This is particularly important in our industry where plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying services are fundamental to the nation's health and wellbeing.

On 4 December 2006, Royal assent was granted to the new Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 ("the new Act").

This event marked a significant milestone in the plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying industry as it signalled the beginning of the end of the 1976 Act, some 30 years following its introduction.

The Board will play a critical role in the successful implementation of this new legislation. It has been delegated the responsibility of the registration and licensing of all plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers.

The new Act includes a number of checks and balances to ensure these responsibilities are properly discharged.

The new legislation sets the foundation for New Zealand's plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying industry going forward with provisions for categories of registration and licensing, introducing a Competence Based Licensing (CBL) requirement and significantly extending the exemption provisions of the 1976 Act.

The Board is currently preparing to consult with stakeholders on key matters such as registration classes, competence based programmes, standards, and terms and conditions.

The consultation document will provide an opportunity to all parties to assist the Board in shaping the new way forward, discussing the issues and some of the options the Board could consider. While it will set out preferred options, the final shape of the registration and competency framework and its adoption and endorsement by Government will be determined after the consultation.

The Board will invite all interested parties to comment on the proposals in this document.

I would like to thank all members of the Board for their concerted effort throughout a challenging year, and conclude by acknowledging, with much appreciation, the tireless support of the Registrar and the staff from the Board's office.



Rod Miller
Chairman

Board Achievements 2006/7

www.pgdb.co.nz

The Board has successfully completed and implemented its 2005-2008 strategic plan that **within three years the Board will have moved to on-line services to support its business objectives.**

Practitioners are now able to transact with the Board online:

- Purchasing licences.
- Filing gasfitting certification certificates.
- Viewing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) information.
- Changing and viewing personal details.

During the year all practitioners were provided with their own P.I.N and user ID allowing access to the online service. With this information the Board provided detailed information on how to re-licence online and how to purchase and file gasfitting certification certificates.

Over 1200 practitioners purchased their licence online for the first time and the Board is confident that this number will increase in the ensuing licensing years.

Previously in 2005, the Public Register became available on the Board's website, with members of the public being able to search either by name or registration number to view the status of practitioners.

The website is constantly developing and provides features such as: application forms, information booklets, previous examination papers, prescriptions, links to relevant training providers, and the latest news.

Examination Processes

During the year the Board and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) developed a series of examination processes which are quality assured by means of an annual Service Level Agreement.

Craftsman Common Examination 9194

This year was a transition year for the Craftsman Common examination 9194. In November the Board offered two 9194 examinations, one to the old and one to the new prescription. In 2007, the Board will examine to the new prescription only.

Mid Year Examination

In December the Board approved the introduction of a mid year examination cycle to commence June 2007. The Board for some time has seen the need to offer a mid year examination, to ensure that potential candidates have the opportunity to gain their qualification as soon as possible.



Competence Based Licensing

Following the review of the Competence Based Licensing system, which was reported in the December 2005 Board News, a number of changes were introduced within the Competence Based Licensing required for registered and craftsman gasfitters:

- A minimum of 8 credits (50%) of the required sixteen Continuing Professional Development (C.P.D) Credits must be of a technical nature directly relating to gasfitting.
Explanation: It was considered that the time was right for tradespeople to upskill in more specific trade areas.
- A maximum of eight credits can now be carried over to the following licence year.
Explanation: some tradespeople were undertaking CPD in excess of the mandatory 16 credits per year.

Competency Auditing 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007

Update from Casey – Gas Auditors

Casey Services (NZ) Ltd, is the Board's Gasfitting Auditor and provides the Board with a monthly update on gas audits. This information is from its March report.

- The number of craftsman gasfitters and exemption holders who completed their audit, from April 2006 to March 2007, was in 428.
- The competency auditing outcomes continue to improve gas knowledge and on-site audit compliance. Craftsman gasfitters and exemption holders pass rate had increased from 69% to 73% by the end of the reporting period.
- The Auditors are encouraged by the knowledge and understanding of craftsman gasfitters and exemption holders throughout this period.

"Craftsman gasfitters and exemption holders have improved their skills substantially and continue to maintain those levels, guaranteeing community safety in the area of gasfitting."

Peter Lamborn, Managing Director, Casey Services

Gas Certification Certificates

During the period 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007, 40,371 certificates were issued.

Please note that Gasfitting Certification Certificates can only be issued to licensed craftsman gasfitters.

Board Membership



Board members are appointed by the Minister of Health, under section 6 of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 1976 as amended in 1999.

- S6(1)(a) Two persons, each of whom must be a craftsman or a registered plumber.
- S6(1)(b) Two persons, each of whom must be a craftsman or a registered gasfitter.
- S6(1)(c) Two registered drainlayers.
- S6(1)(d) Four other persons, one of whom may be a registered person and one of whom may be a representative of a relevant training organisation.

Board Members for year ended 31 March 2007



Board Members from 13 July 2006 – 31 March 2007

Mr R Miller	Chairman	Section 6 (1)
Mrs F Gilkison	Deputy Chair Person	Section 6 (1)
Mr D Coxhead	Member	Section 6 (1)
Mr N Burrow	Member	Section 6 (1)
Mr S Parker	Member*	Section 6 (1)
Mrs M Noble	Member	Section 6 (1)
Mr A Salisbury	Member	Section 6 (1)
Mr G Owen	Member	Section 6 (1)
Ms P Nicholas	Member	Section 6 (1)
Mr P Warren	Member	Section 6 (1)

* Resigned December 2006.



Board Members from 1 April 2006 – 12 July 2006

Mr P Routhan	Chairperson *	Section 6(1)(a)
Mr T Wynyard	Deputy Chairperson	Section 6(1)(a)
Mr R Daniel	Member	Section 6(1)(b)
Mr G Heazlewood	Member	Section 6(1)(b)
Mr D Jacobson	Member	Section 6(1)(c)
Mr R Day	Member	Section 6(1)(c)
Mr P Paku	Member	Section 6(1)(d)
Mrs J Coll	Member	Section 6(1)(d)
Mr R Harrison	Member	Section 6(1)(d)
Mrs B Carroll	Member	Section 6(1)(d)

* Resigned June 2006.

Board Meetings ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

The Board held 12 meetings between 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007.



Board Committees



Technical Committee

Messrs Burrow (Chair), Coxhead, Owen, Warren and Salisbury.

The Technical Committee did not meet in the year.

Finance and Audit Committee

Mrs Gilkison (Chair), Messr Miller and Mrs Noble.

The Finance and Audit Committee held two meetings between 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007, one of these was a teleconference.

Board Representations – Outside Organisations

R Miller Australia New Zealand Reciprocity Association – Delegate.

Statement of Purpose

To protect consumer health and safety in New Zealand by ensuring that plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers are competent and licensed.

Strategic Goals



The Board has successfully completed and implemented its strategic goal to make online services available to practitioners and members of the public by 2006.



Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying Examinations



The number of candidates who applied to sit the examinations is shown for the last seven years.

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Plumbing Registration	9192	*	*	129	189	289	309	500
Gasfitting Registration	9193	*	*	72	126	160	161	233
Craftsman Common	9194	104	77	93	103	130	116	146
Craftsman Plumbing	9195	167	143	136	77	122	80	164
Craftsman Gasfitting	9196	55	60	92	47	58	133	89
Drainlaying Registration	9197	*	*	*	*	*	*	45

* No examination

Examination Results



		2003 pass rate%	2004 pass rate%	2005 pass rate%	2006 pass rate%
Registration Plumbing	9192	39	31	12	37
Registration Gasfitting	9193	70	65	58	49
Craftsman Common	9194	85	32	58	37
Craftsman Plumbing	9195	43	31	38	63
Craftsman Gasfitting	9196	87	49	62	47
Drainlaying Registration	9197	*	*	*	75

Written Examinations



It is the statutory responsibility of the Board to be satisfied as to the competence of persons applying for registration. It is a requirement of all persons seeking registration to have sat and passed the Board's written examinations.

"The Board has developed excellent relationships with all examination centres and centre managers which has allowed the examinations to be well organised, well supervised and problem free. Nearly all candidates completed their papers so the time and content seemed appropriate. This 2006 cycle also marked the return of the drainlaying registration examination."

– R Daniel, Chief Examiner.

Registrations



The Board approved the following registrations for the year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007:

• Craftsman Plumber	39
• Craftsman Gasfitter	23
• Registered Plumber	67
• Registered Gasfitter	71
• Registered Drainlayer	124

The Board approved:

- 10 names to be removed from the register on notification of the registered person's death.
- A change of name on the register for one person.
- 15 reinstatements to the register.

Reciprocity Certificates issued

35 Reciprocity Certificates were issued to New Zealand plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers travelling to Australia between 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007.

Complaints

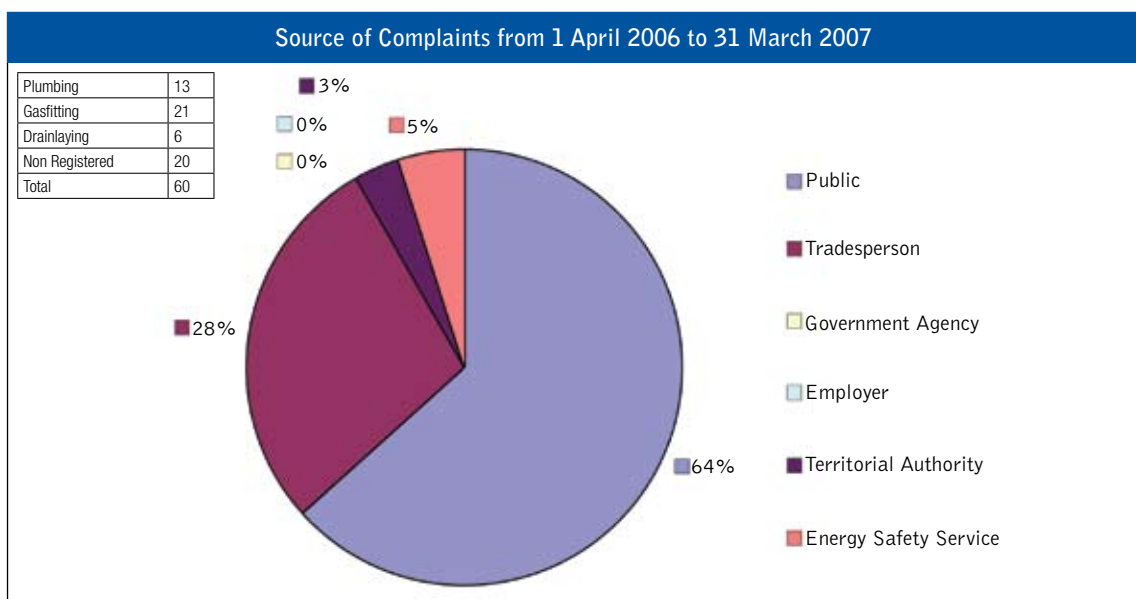
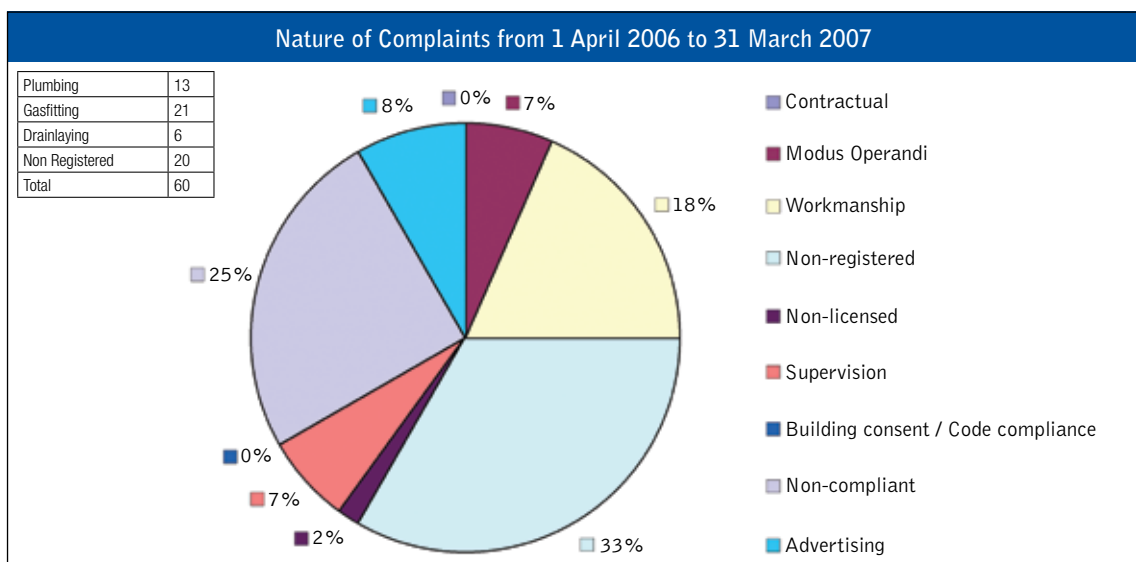


Complaint statistics

Year 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007

The Board received sixty complaints during the year ended 31 March 2007. Of these sixty complaints, the most significant type of complaints were as follows: 33% of all complaints related to non-registered persons, 25% concerned non-compliant work and 18% related to workmanship issues.

Of the sixty complaints: 64% were received from members of the public, 28% from industry tradespersons with the remaining 8% being the local authority (3%) and the Energy Safety Service (5%) respectively.



Discipline



The Board held a number of due inquiries (“disciplinary hearings”) during the year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007. A table of those disciplinary hearings together with details is set out below.

NAME	CHARGES	PLEA	FACTS	DECISION	DISCIPLINARY ORDERS
Limited certificate holder (gasfitting)	Sections 49 and 42(1)(b) or (c) Carried out gasfitting work without supervision.	Pleaded Guilty	Board found s42(1)(c) charge established – installed gas hob and connected existing appliances without supervision; also failed to have certified by craftsman gasfitter.	06/06/06	Censure Fine \$1,600 Costs \$1,500 No publication
Registered gasfitter	Section 42(1)(b) or (c) (i) Installation & connection of Bosch gas heater; certification contrary to s47 Gas Act 1992. Section 42 (1)(c) (ii) Failure to certify installation of Rinnai Infinity gas hot water contrary to Gas Regulation 24B(1)(b) (i), Gas Regulations 1993 & Section 47 Gas Act 1992.	Pleaded guilty to s42(1)(c) Pleaded Guilty	Board found s42(1)(c) charge established: connected appliance to supply of LPG rather than natural gas; attached to external wall 400mm from opening window, did not attach heat shield and connected up to supply before certification. Installation left connected and uncertified for at least 7 days; failed to provide gas certificate to consumer until account paid in full and connected to gas supply before certification.	07/06/06 07/06/06	Fine \$ 1,800 Costs \$3,516 No Publication Fine \$300 Costs \$2,128 No Publication
Registered plumber & registered gasfitter	Section 42(1)(c) Installation, commissioning and certification of Living Flame heater (Gas Regulations 12 & 24A).	Pleaded Guilty	Set incorrect appliance working pressure and gas rate by relying on visual inspection rather than pressure gauge (0.7kPa not 1.5kPa) led to potentially unsafe/dangerous condition; certification 4 months late.	15/06/06	Censure Fine \$2,000 Costs \$3,220 No publication
Craftsman plumber, gasfitter & registered drainlayer	Section 42(1)(c) Certification of Living Flame heater (Gas Regulations 24A(4)).	Pleaded Guilty	Pre-signed gas certification certificate without any inspection/checks to satisfy himself statements in certificate were accurate.	15/06/06	Censure Fine \$2,500 Costs \$1,995 No publication

NAME	CHARGES	PLEA	FACTS	DECISION	DISCIPLINARY ORDERS
Craftsman plumber	Section 42(1)(c) Carried out gasfitting work without a licence and allowed employee to connect to supply for consumer use.	Pleaded Guilty	Installation and connection of Rimmai gas water heater whereby craftsman plumber provided quote to consumer and permitted unlicensed registered gasfitter to install and left ready for consumer use.	22/09/06	Censure Fine \$1,750 Costs \$3,905 No publication
Craftsman gasfitter	Section 42(1)(a) Conviction in Auckland District Court under Regulation 24A(4) Gas Regulations 1993 (failure to satisfy statements in gas certificate accurate).	Pleaded Guilty	Signed gas certification certificate regarding installation of Rheem gas water heater, the deficiencies of which resulted in subsequent fire reported to Board by ESS (incorrect gas fittings).	30/11/06	Censure Costs \$3,000 No publication
Craftsman plumber, gasfitter and registered drainlayer	Section 42(1)(c) Failed to install gas cook top in safe manner contrary to clause 1.6.7 NZS5261:2003.	Pleaded Guilty	Failed to check installation and set correct gas rate, left untested and labelled as untested, full bottle fitted, but failed to return to complete safe installation (resulted in explosion).	14/12/06	Censure Fine \$250 Costs \$750 No Publication
Coburn: Mark Daniel Craftsman plumber and gasfitter and registered drainlayer	Section 42(1)(b) or (c) Carried out gasfitting work contrary to the Gas Regulations and NZS 5261 : 1996.	Pleaded Guilty	Flue installations non-compliant, namely, long lateral runs with no measurable rise, vertical developed height equal to or less than horizontal height, not constructed of appropriate material for concealment within cavity, inadequate clearances from combustibles and terminals inappropriately positioned. Neglected or refused to remedy non-compliance to reduce risk of dangerous situation.	09/02/07	Suspension (gasfitting registration) Fine \$6,000 Costs \$7,000 Publication

Prosecutions

The Board is only able to action prosecutions in the District Court, against non-registered persons, or registered persons carrying out such work without a licence, if it has sufficient evidence to do so.

Evidence required by the Board to ensure a successful prosecution includes: full name of person to be charged, date and address of job where the work was done and the names of any witnesses who actually saw that person doing the work alleged. Invoices are useful documentary evidence, as are copies of advertisement(s) placed by the defendant which may reasonably lead others to believe that person is a registered and/or licensed person.

The Board is able to recover 90% of each fine ordered by the District Court against the defendant under the Public Finance Act.

Most prosecutions cost the Board between \$2-5,000 – the more expensive being the defended hearings.

S50(1)(a)	Person uses or causes to be used in connection with his business or trade, words that may reasonably cause people to believe he is a craftsman or registered plumber, or gasfitter, or registered drainlayer.
S(50)(1)(e)	Person carries out sanitary plumbing while not holding a current licence as a craftsman or registered plumber.
S50(1)(f)	Person does any gasfitting while not holding a current licence as a craftsman or registered gasfitter.
S50(1)(h)	Person knowingly employs, permits or pays any person to do any sanitary plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying contrary to the Act.

In the last year the Board has lodged in total ten prosecutions in the District Court under section 50 of the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 1976. The details of the completed prosecutions are set out in the table below.

DATE	CIRCUMSTANCES	OFFENCES	PENALTY
8 June 2006 Peter Keegan Hamilton DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported by Energy Safety Service Extended "flue" of Rinnai Gas heater Held by Judge to be gasfitting under section 2 of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 1976 Defendant trades as Waikato Heating and Gas Centre 	S50(1)(f)	Convicted – defended hearing Fine \$250 Court costs \$130
27 June 2006 Rodney Braithwaite Manukau DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported by consumer Defendant was to install 2 new showers one of which leaked and the other was never installed Quoted \$2,750, client paid \$2,000 deposit of which \$1,700 was subsequently recovered at Disputes Tribunal 	S50(1)(e)	Convicted – pleaded guilty Fine \$650 Court costs \$130 Solicitor fees \$225
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defendant (handyman), advertised his services for bathroom installations in local newspaper 	S50(1)(a)	Convicted – pleaded guilty Fine \$650 Court costs \$130 Solicitor fees \$225
31 July 2006 Hilton Webb Gisborne DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported by consumer Defendant is manager of Tile & Heating Centre who quoted on removing gas heater and installing woodburner fire 	S50(1)(h)	Convicted – defended hearing Fine \$1,500 Court costs \$225 Solicitor fees \$130

DATE	CIRCUMSTANCES	OFFENCES	PENALTY
31 July 2006 Glen Kelly Gisborne DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defendant was employee of Tile & Heating Centre who removed gas heater and installed woodburner fire This required disconnecting existing heater from the mains system, which was then capped off Resulted in gas leak 	S50(1)(f)	Convicted – pleaded guilty Fine \$750 Court costs \$225 Solicitors costs \$130
4 August 2006 By Hoki Enterprises Ltd trading as “Hire-a-Hubby” Pakuranga Manukau DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported by Consumer Defendant is a well-known national franchise holder Undertook extensive bathroom renovation work which involved removing all sanitary appliances, removing and replacing internal walls and re-installing sanitary appliances Subsequently noticed foul smell from shower after which the ceiling fell into room on ground floor below (caused by incorrect installation of shower waste and drain) Remedial work cost \$30,000 (\$12,000 awarded from Dispute Tribunal in compensation) 	S50(1)(h)	Convicted – pleaded guilty Fine \$2,500 Court costs \$130 Solicitor fees \$226
7 September 2006 Wayne Fisher Hastings DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported by consumer Defendant installed new shower box, pedestal hand basin, moved a bath tub and re-plumbed into new position Consumer paid \$670 cash Subsequently, shower leaked because no o-ring used and regulator valve installed incorrectly 	S50(1)(e)	Convicted – pleaded guilty Fine \$750 Cost \$130 Solicitors costs \$226
18 October 2006 Robert Stanton Christchurch DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported by Consumer Defendant removed sanitary appliances (toilet, hotwater cylinder, washing machine) and installed in new positions. Consumer paid \$2,976 Hot water cylinder leaked subsequently because installed incorrectly as was the toilet The remedial work cost \$2,336 	S50(1)(e)	Convicted – pleaded guilty Fine \$1,000 Cost \$130 Solicitors costs \$225
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defendant advertised his services for plumbing work in Star Newspaper under the name of Plumber ‘Bob’ 	S50(1)(a)	Fine \$800 Cost \$130 Solicitors costs \$225
8 December 2006 Richard Pickering Porirua DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported by consumer Handyman carried out “sanitary plumbing” work Poor workmanship (leaking pipes) required remedial work costing \$542 (new concentrics to bath tap, replacement of vanity and cabinet units and fixing of pipes) 	S50(1)(e)	Convicted – pleaded guilty Fine \$750.00 Court costs \$130.00 Solicitor’s fees \$225.00
22 March 2007 Peter Bowden Nelson DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported by consumer Substantial renovations included sanitary plumbing at total cost of \$55,000 58 hours of sanitary plumbing work carried out by defendant 	S50(1)(e)	Convicted – pleaded guilty Fine \$800.00 Solicitor’s fees \$113.00
23 March 2007 J Broekhoff Auckland DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defendant trades as “Fireplaces NZ” Installed Real Flame gas fire Consumer paid \$2,450.00 Supply pipe incorrectly soldered to pre-existing gas pipe resulting in 5mm hole in join between 2 pipes No certification 	S50(1)(f)	Convicted – pleaded guilty Fine \$1,000.00 Court costs \$130.00 Solicitor’s fees \$113.00

Australia New Zealand Reciprocity Association (ANZRA)

Purpose

The Board is a party to the ANZRA Agreement which is a voluntary arrangement between agencies of all Australian States and Territories and New Zealand responsible for the registration and licensing of plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers. The driving force of the establishment of ANZRA in 1950 was the need to assist the mobility of plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers throughout Australia and New Zealand through the reciprocal recognition of qualifications and standards. The Board works closely with the ANZRA members to ensure that the standards across ANZRA jurisdictions are reciprocal.

In November 2006, at the bi-annual ANZRA conference held in Perth, Australia, the National Plumbing Regulators Forum (NPRF) members discussed the current and future relationship between ANZRA and the NPRF. The group recognised that both entities had a similar focus, agenda and membership. There was concern that the efforts of the two entities would be duplicated. The group saw benefit in combining the efforts of these two entities to develop and promote the industry in Australia and New Zealand.

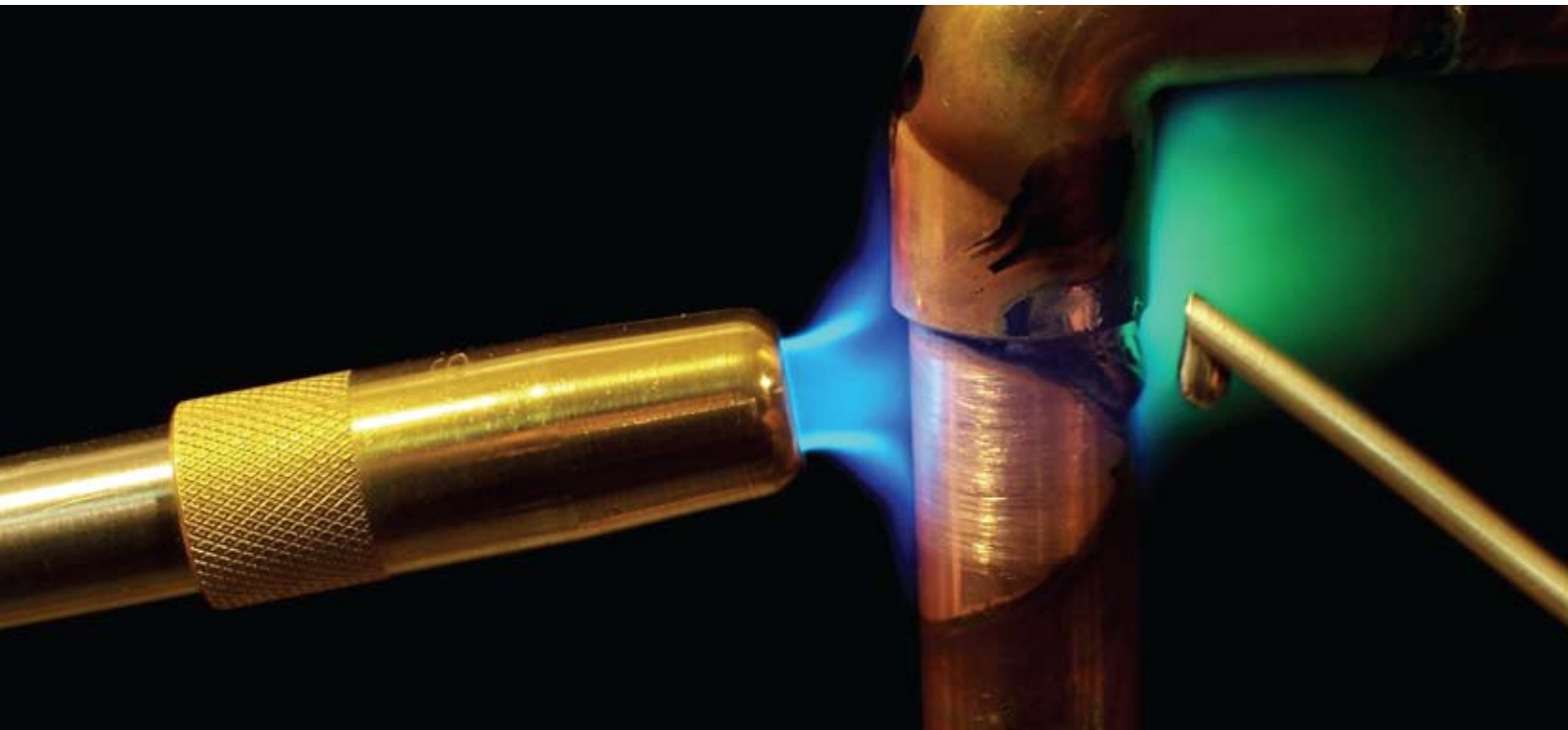
Unanimously, the group decided that ANZRA's functions should transition into the NPRF. To begin the transition the initial proposal is that ANZRA's key functions will be performed by the NPRF's Licensing and Education Advisory Committee.

ANZRA will continue in its function until this transition occurs. It is anticipated that this will happen sometime during the 2007 – 2008 financial year.

Objectives

The objectives of the ANZRA agreement are:

- to facilitate the recognition, by each member authority, of certificates and qualifications issued by each other to provide mobility in the plumbing, gasfitting and drainage industry;
- to inquire into and assess both local and overseas qualifications;
- to encourage the adoption of uniformly high standards of qualifications and practices within the industry; and
- to exchange information on the functions, practices and standards of each signatory.





Overseas applications

ANZRA also assesses qualifications from overseas applicants for registration. The regulatory bodies accept specific qualifications from seventeen other countries (apart from Australia and New Zealand) as a pre-requisite for sitting the registration examination and the practical test of workmanship in the trade. The seventeen countries are:

- Austria;
- Canada;
- Denmark;
- England, Wales and Northern Ireland;
- France;
- Germany;
- Hong Kong;
- Hungary;
- Ireland;
- Malaysia;
- Netherlands;
- Poland;
- Scotland;
- Singapore;
- South Africa;
- Switzerland; and
- Zimbabwe.

These countries have had their training and qualifications assessed and endorsed by ANZRA against the agreed ANZRA competencies. Once endorsed, an overseas country must seek approval prior to amending their qualifications.

Overseas plumbers and gasfitters contribution to new registrations as at 31.03.07.

Plumbers

Year ended 31 March	Total number of new registrations	Total number of overseas registrations	Percentage of overseas registrations
2004	101	63	62%
2005	111	79	71%
2006	86	77	90%
2007	67	2	3%

Gasfitters

Year ended 31 March	Total number of new registrations	Total number of overseas registrations	Percentage of overseas registrations
2004	60	44	73%
2005	90	47	52%
2006	70	35	50%
2007	71	3	4%

