

E – INSTITUTE

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The Institute of Plumbing
Australia Incorporated

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Training Package

- 2008 version up for endorsement.
- Industry backs a wide skill range for a Plumber.
- Still a long way to go to National Consistency.

Well it looks like the backroom work of reviewing the CPC08 Construction, Plumbing and Services Integrated Framework Training Package is all but over with the total package currently going through the endorsement process. Of special interest to the plumbing fraternity are Certificate III in Plumbing (CPC32408) and Certificate IV in Plumbing and Services (CPC40908) through to CPC50408 Diploma of Plumbing and Services. Currently Certificate VI of the training package, Advanced Diploma, is only available in Building and Construction.

The Institute of Plumbing Australia applauds all those involved in the process of reviewing the various units of competency and introducing current materials and practices together with the integration of units within the overall training package.

Of interest to those wanting to employ general plumbers as against specialist fitters the change to the packaging rules for Certificate III requiring competency in five out of the six streams will be good news. State and Territory Governments will need to take this into consideration when allocating funding for vocational training. But, from past experience any increased funding will only come after a concerted lobby by Plumbing.

Another matter relating to State Governments and funding is the need for consistency in delivery and assessment of training. The previous Plumbing and Services Training Package BCP03 was endorsed in October 2003 yet in 2008 we still have a very serious lack of consistency within and between States and Territories. State and Territory Governments supposedly agreed through COAG to harmonise training and licensing of plumbers across Australia, it is about time they acted on that agreement.

In some quarters there is still a divide and conquer mentality that is completely out of step with industry, that's the Plumbing Industry. Although we are stuck in a "Construction" training package it is the plumbing industry that included the requirement for 5 out of 6 streams in Certificate III. As plumbers we owe our clients and the public at large a well and fully trained workforce

In this issue

Training Package

Plumbing Diploma

Barriers to National
Consistency – NPRF Forum

National Plumbing Forum

with the widest possible skill range to design, install and maintain the complex plumbing systems of today.

Plumbing Diploma

Plumbing now has an integrated training package capable of taking people from high school student to tradesperson to licensed contractor and on to a diploma of plumbing, a real career path. One of the down sides to endorsement of Certificate IV and the Diploma (Certificate V) is the demise of several State based diploma's leaving current and prospective students in limbo in 2008. The Design Sector of the plumbing industry is especially affected by this and also by the prerequisite of Competency at Certificate III before commencing studies towards the Diploma of Plumbing and Services. There is concern in Industry and from regulators that entry to the training package at Certificate IV may lead to a shortcut to "Licensed Plumber" without achieving the underpinning knowledge and trade skills of a plumber.

At a recent meeting of the Plumbing Coalition Australia it was suggested that as there were several existing streams for entry to Certificate IV the possibility of adding a "Design Stream" be investigated. It was further suggested that this investigation will require the formation of a working group.

There are suggestions from some quarters that training for plumbing designers will be undertaken within other engineering disciplines and outside the training package. This will have a detrimental effect on the ability of training providers to present viable courses in Certificates IV and V due to the limited student pool. The soon to be endorsed training package must be seen as the vehicle to promote nationally consistent delivery and assessment of training for plumbers across Australia, the return of essentially, state based diplomas, will undermine those efforts. The wider plumbing industry must work towards pathways through the training package that allow all in plumbing to be involved.

Barriers to National Consistency – Industry Forum

The National Plumbing Regulators Forum (NPRF) will, on 13 June 2008 in Canberra, host an Industry Forum to visit issues facing the plumbing industry across Australia and New Zealand. The programme includes the NPRF structure, role, direction, strategies, committees and where ANZRA went.

The event is open to all stakeholders and national plumbing associations are encouraged to present their views.

See attached Programme and Registration Form

Australian National Plumbing Forum at Designbuild 17 June 2008.

This Institute recognises the need to maintain craft and trade training in the pathway to licensed tradesperson and on to licensed contractor but at the same time the need to lift recruitment into the plumbing design sector. To foster industry debate the Institute of Plumbing Australia will dedicate its 2008 series of National Plumbing Forums to this and other training issues. 2008 Australian National Plumbing Forums will be held in conjunction with the Designbuild/Plumbing Show in Melbourne, 17 June and in Perth October 2008. [We are currently calling for speakers and/or papers for the Melbourne Forum.](#)

In 2008 the Institute of Plumbing Australia will contribute by providing a voice for plumbers and plumbing on several important initiatives and ongoing programmes including:

- ✚ The Institute's National Plumbing Forum will return to Melbourne at the Designbuild Exhibition in June. The topic will be built around training issues.
- ✚ AS/NZS3500 Parts 1 to 4 expire in 2008 and a complete review will be undertaken by the Standards Committee, if you have any pet likes or dislikes about the current 2003 Standard please forward to the Institute Secretary for inclusion in the Committee debate.
- ✚ A scientific study of the effects on plumbing systems and infrastructure of reduced flush volumes and grey water separation. The Institute is part of a highly motivated National and International Industry Wide Steering Committee chaired by the NPRF. More about that in the New Year.
- ✚ National best practice for plumbing training a skills council backed project looking at implementation issues for the plumbing and services training package.
- ✚ Managing the Flow, the report out of the Parliamentary Inquiry into regulating plumbing product quality. The Plumbing Coalition Australia is working to keep this report alive and kicking.

Your input into this Newsletter and other IPA matters is always welcome and in fact sort after.

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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