



Australian Institute of Building Submission to the *Consultation Regulation Impact Statement for Plumbing and Gasfitting Occupations*

Introduction

The Australian Institute of Building (AIB) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the *Consultation Regulation Impact Statement for Plumbing and Gasfitting Occupations*. The AIB is keen to see more efficient and thorough plumbing and gasfitting standards through higher and uniform standards for plumber and gasfitters, and congratulates the National Occupational Licensing Authority (NOLA) for progressing this issue.

AIB is particularly keen to see that the 'bar is raised' in terms of minimum educational standards for all occupations in the COAG process of national licensing. This process is the perfect opportunity for the Federal Government to raise standards across the nation in a range of key occupations. This would have a whole range of benefits, from better OH&S outcomes, better consumer protection, and higher quality work undertaken. Higher standards would lead to greater productivity and efficiency, and would be a 'win-win' for workers, consumers, businesses and Federal, State and Local Governments.

Principles

The AIB advocates the following principles in regards to national licensing for plumbing and gasfitting occupations:

- There should be higher minimum qualifications for plumbers and gasfitters;
- National licensing for plumbers and gasfitters should be designed with consumer protection in mind;
- There should be compulsory Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and developing business skills for plumbing and gasfitting contractors should be part of this;
- Applicants for a national licence should have compulsory public liability and property insurance;
- Licence fees should be the same nationwide; and
- There should be a meaningful national licence without state exceptions. Otherwise, a 'national license' will be in name only.

Further Information

For further information, please contact the AIB Chief Executive Officer or Policy & Advocacy Manager on (02) 6247 7433 or ceo@aib.or.au or policy@aib.org.au

Appendix 1

About the AIB

Founded in 1951, the AIB is the leading institute for building and construction professionals, acknowledged for its ability to bring individuals together who share a common interest in improving the standing of the building profession and their career within Australia and overseas.

The AIB is incorporated by Royal Charter and is the preeminent professional body for building professionals in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Recognised as the accrediting body for building and construction degrees at educational institutions, the AIB has a long and proud history of supporting and servicing the building profession. For more than fifty years, the Institute has worked with the building and construction industry, government, universities and allied stakeholders to promote the building profession, support the development of university courses in building and construction whilst promoting the use of innovative building techniques and a best-practice regulatory environment.

AIB is proud of its role in promoting the exchange of information amongst individuals and accomplishes this through publications including the *Construct* magazine and the Australasian Journal of Construction Economics & Building (AJCEB).

The AIB also has an extensive continuing professional development program in Australia and overseas and facilitates the annual AIB Professional Excellence in Building Awards Program.

For further information please go to www.aib.org.au