Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board
Introduction

The 3 key concerns of regulators

• Ensuring plumbers are properly trained
• The workforce skills remain current
• Discouraging those who are not trained from doing the work
Introduction

The regulatory landscape is changing

• New products
• Technology
• Climate change
• Worldwide construction boom
• Shortage of skilled labour
• Migration
Introduction

The challenge – adapting to changes

• What is happening in New Zealand
• How is the rest of the world meeting the challenges?
Skills shortage

World wide skills shortage

• **India** - need to grow their plumbing workforce by over 1m 2008-2022

• **USA** - need for plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters projected to grow 16% 2016-2024
Skills shortage

World wide skills shortage

UK - warning that skills shortages, including plumbers, will hamper housing delivery

New Zealand - demand for plumbers forecast to grow by 15%, 2016-2022. Greatest pressure in Auckland-forecast demand 32%
Addressing shortage

Re-engaging young people back to trades

• Accelerated apprenticeships
• 5 years becomes 3
• Draws in NSW model
Exams delivered electronically
Available 52 weeks of the year
Level 5 qualification to be delivered electronically
Addressing shortage

Assisting those with learning difficulties

• Journeyman licence for those who cannot pass their exam

• Exam assistance and oral competency testing
Addressing shortage

Encouraging diversity in the trades

- Encouraging more woman to join the trades. 2% currently female, 4 woman on our Board

- Supporting ethnic diversity

- Auckland-23% Asian, 35% by 2038. Only 3% of apprentices Asian
Addressing shortage

Overseas migrants

- Assessment of overseas qualifications
- Gap training
- Provisional licence while they train
Competency

Initiatives for maintaining competency

- Annual CPD requirement to retain licence
- CPD focused on identified needs
- CPD completed in person or online
- Register and licence on mobile – access to standards
- Help desk and Chatbot available 24/7
Unauthorised work

Initiatives

• Report a cowboy (R.A.C) app
• Industry and consumer responsive
• Intelligence gathering device
• Allows targeted operations
• Used by electrical and building industry
Consumer education

• Sort the Pros from the Cons campaign
• Total audience of over 15m
• 90% increase in public register searches
• 9 out of 10 New Zealanders say they know of the need to use a licensed plumber
Summary

- New challenges
- Key focus remains the same
- Courage required to find innovative solutions
- Essential to share them