

The

Hairdressers Registration Board of Western Australia

Newsletter

Issue One – 1st Quarter, 2007

Letter From The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection on the Regulation of the Hairdressing Industry

In February 2007 the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) sent a letter to the industry giving an update on the '*regulation of the hairdressing industry*'. To summarise, DOCEP believes that there has been and still are some misconceptions as to the continuing statutory role of the Hairdressers Registration Board (HRB) during the development of a new scheme to regulate the industry. As DOCEP have stated, it is important to understand that until the Parliament of Western Australia passes any changes to the *Hairdressers Registration Act 1946*, the existing requirements of the HRB and the Act continue to apply, including the payment of registration fees to maintain your registration. A range of processes would need to occur before any changes could be made, therefore the Commissioner for Consumer Protection, Patrick Walker would appreciate your continued compliance with the Act and the HRB. Should you have any queries relating to this matter please do not hesitate to contact the Board on 9381 9966.

Occupational Protective Footwear

Whilst conducting inspections in hairdressing establishments over the summer months, it has been noted that a number of hairdressers have been wearing open toed shoes. We would like to remind all hairdressers that if you are an:

- owner of a salon
- employer
- employee
- self employed hairdresser

you have a duty of care under the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 to ensure the health and safety of yourself and others. It is a requirement that when practicing hairdressing and using chemicals or hairdressing tools such as scissors, closed in shoes are to be worn at all times.

Always ensure that clothing, *including footwear*, worn in the workplace complies with safety requirements under the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 (Footwear—Part 3.33 Division 2 AS/NZS 2201.1).

For further information relating to Occupational Protective Footwear in the workplace you may contact Worksafe on 93278777 or to obtain a copy of the definition of Occupational Protective Footwear (AS/NZS 2201.1) go to the Australian Standards website at www.standards.org.au

Residual Current Devices (RCD's) in the Workplace

Media Release from WORKSAFE

Reminder on the need for RCD's with hand-held electrical tools

WorkSafe has issued a reminder to workplaces that residual current devices (RCDs) need to be fitted to electrical circuits wherever hand-held electrical tools are to be used.

WorkSafe WA Commissioner Nina Lyhne said today that recent incidents investigated by WorkSafe inspectors had prompted the reminder.

"Over the past few months, inspectors have investigated two instances in regional areas of electric shocks, and in both cases RCDs had not been fitted in commercial premises," Ms Lyhne said.

"Sadly, 12 Western Australians have died in work-related incidents involving electricity over the past five years, and this does not show any signs of improving.

"WA's workplace safety laws require that non-portable RCDs be fitted to electrical circuits where hand-held electrical equipment is used."

An RCD is designed to immediately switch the electricity off when a leak is detected, providing a high level of personal protection from electric shock to anyone using hand-held electrical equipment.

The person in control of the workplace has the choice of installing a fixed RCD at the switchboard to provide blanket protection for the building, or installing RCDs at selected fixed socket outlets where hand-held tools are used.

Electrocution can occur even when electricity is not at high voltage, and electrocutions have been known to happen as a result of contact with faulty electrical

equipment that has become live, or via contact with worn and damaged wiring and switches.

RCDs are to be installed only by licensed electrical contractors. The Electrical Contractors Association of WA Inc can provide a list of licensed electrical contractors in local areas.

"The bottom line is that people in control of workplaces need to assess all risks associated with electrical power cords, fittings, machinery and tools," Ms Lyhne said.

"They then need to assess each hazard for the likelihood of injury and develop and implement safe work procedures that minimise the risk of workers being injured, for example installing RCDs.

"There are many different causes of electric shock and electrocution, but they all have one thing in common – they can be prevented.

"I urge anyone in control of a workplace where hand-held electrical equipment is used to install RCDs where appropriate – it may well save a life."

Further information on electrical safety can be obtained by telephoning WorkSafe on 9327 8777 or EnergySafety on 9422 5200, or on the websites at www.worksafe.wa.gov.au or www.energysafety.wa.gov.au.

Skills Shortage for Registered Hairdressers

To assist the industry in its search for qualified registered hairdressers to fill the numerous vacant positions in salons, the Hairdressers Registration Board have written to all hairdressers that have put their registration into Voluntary Suspension prior to 2007, advising them of the job opportunities created by the current skills shortage within the industry.

We have advised these hairdressers that should they be considering re-entering the hairdressing industry, there are a number of salons looking for staff that are advertising their requirements on our website and also in the newspapers.

To reinstate their hairdresser's registration they will simply need to contact the HRB on 9381 9966 and request reinstatement. Upon payment of this year's reinstatement and registration fee they will be forwarded their current registration certificate.

Restrictive Trade Practices

The Board's Inspector's have received a number of enquiries relating to the control on prices charged by hairdressing establishments for their services.

Please be advised that price control is illegal and the HRB would be in breach of the Trade Practices Act 1974, 'Part IV Section 45 Restrictive Trade Practices' if it was to become involved in price fixing. Therefore the HRB cannot be a party to the control on prices within the hairdressing industry.

Should you wish to obtain a copy of the Trade Practices Act 1974 you can download a copy from the Commonwealth of Australia Law website at www.comlaw.gov.au

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