

The

Hairdressers Registration Board of Western Australia

Newsletter Issue One - First Quarter, 2010

Outstanding Registration Fees

There are still a number of hairdressers that have not paid their 2010 registration fees. Invoices were sent out in January this year and reminders in February. Those hairdressers that have failed to pay their fees by the due date have now been placed in compulsory suspension and will be required to pay late fees.

Please note that any hairdresser found practicing hairdressing whilst unregistered risks prosecution.

It is the Board's intention to list all hairdressers that are under compulsory suspension on the website so current or potential employers can be aware that those hairdressers are in breach of the Hairdressers Registration Act if they practice hairdressing. An employer that knowingly employs an unregistered hairdresser also faces prosecution by the Board.

The Board also wishes to remind all participants in the industry that whilst there is a proposal to repeal the Hairdressers Registration legislation this has yet to be considered by Parliament, registration fees for 2010 still remain payable.

Hair Extensions – Media Release

(circulated to the media outlets)

Faulty hair extensions lead to consumer distress

The Hairdressers Registration Board is concerned about a number of recent complaints from consumers in relation to inferior hair extensions and incorrect application techniques being used.

The complaints relate to unqualified people practicing hairdressing using inferior hair extensions, as well as inappropriate and unreliable attachment procedures.

The Board's Registrar Les Marshall said the use of incorrect application techniques has resulted in a number of consumers experiencing physical symptoms ranging from serious discomfort, tension headaches, hair breakage, scalp lesions and in a worst case scenario, traction alopecia.

"The Board believes this sudden influx of consumer complaints is due to a number of unqualified people setting up cottage industries and practicing as hairdressers," Mr Marshall said.

"These people often acquire cheap hair extensions and attachments through the Internet and give the impression they are leading international brand products.

"Typically they operate from a mobile number, have no insurance coverage and are not likely to recognise Occupational Safety and Health requirements.

"When a consumer complains about the inferior quality of the hair, and their extensions fall out, these operators become difficult to contact leaving consumers \$500 to \$2,000 and more out of pocket."

In the last six months, 46 per cent of complaints to the Board have been the result of inferior hair extension practices.

"Before committing to having hair extensions, consumers should undertake a thorough consultation process with a number of professional hairdressers who specialise in hair extensions," Mr Marshall said

Consumers who are concerned about the service they have received should contact the Registrar of the Board, Mr Les Marshall on 9381 9966.

Hair Bars – update

In the December 2009 newsletter the Board reported that there was an organisation that had set up a number of hair bars in the major shopping centres selling straightening irons and providing styling and dressing of hair to their clientele using unqualified people, this constitutes practicing hairdressing.

The Board notified the Directors that those practices were in breach of the HR Act and that if they wished to continue trading they would need to comply with the legislation.

The Board has since been informed by the company's solicitors that the hair bars are no longer providing hairdressing services to their clientele and are to be closed.

Right of Entry For Inspections and Sighting of Certificates

Board Inspectors have recently found a number of hairdressing organisations who are unaware that there are legislative powers to allow inspectors on to the premises. In these instances a Board Inspector may enter into and upon the premises of a hairdresser's shop for the purpose of ascertaining whether any of the provisions of the Act or regulations are being contravened.

The Inspector may require any person on the premises who is performing any of the functions of a hairdresser to produce their certificate of registration or establish that they are an indentured apprentice.

Anyone who refuses or fails to comply with the request of an inspector under this regulation commits an offence.

If entry to the shop is refused the Registrar can initiate the appropriate legal action against the offending parties.

Definition of a Hairdresser's Shop - A "Hairdresser's Shop" means any place wherein or whereon hairdressing is practiced or where the Board has reason to believe hairdressing is being practiced.

Institutional Graduates of a Certificate III Undertaking an Apprenticeship in the Same Qualification

On the 17 July 2009 the HRB received advice from the Department of Education and Training on recognition of qualifications received through an institutional pathway as outlined below:

'Under the AQTF an RTO must recognise the AQF qualification and statements of attainment issued by any other RTO. Consequently, if a person has completed Certificate III in Hairdressing through an institutional pathway they will not be able to enter into an apprenticeship as they have already completed the qualification and can receive no further certification. ApprentiCentre will not register any apprenticeship training contracts where the person has already successfully obtained the same qualification, regardless of the pathway.'

This decision will impact on applicants who already hold a nationally recognised qualification, that was not obtained through an apprenticeship, and who apply to the Hairdressers Registration Board to be registered as a hairdresser in Western Australia.'

Recent guidelines that were released on the 15 January 2010 indicate:

'There is nothing to prevent an individual who has already obtained a certificate III with the same competencies as the apprenticeship from entering into an apprenticeship. In these cases, completion of the apprenticeship is determined once the employer and the apprentice agree that all the requirements of the training contract have been met.'

Once this is confirmed, in the form of a 'Notification of Completion of the Apprenticeship Training Contract', registered training organisations (RTOs) may issue another certificate III adding the words "achieved through apprenticeship arrangements" on the certificate.'

The guidelines were established as there were a number of employers that had concerns that institutional graduates of a Certificate III did not have "on the job" training and were therefore not as 'job ready' as an apprentice that had completed both on the job and off the job training.

A copy of the guidelines can be downloaded from the ApprentiCentre website at www.trainingwa.wa.gov.au