



HRBWA'S Response to The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection's Position Paper on the Regulation of the Hairdressing Industry in Western Australia

In August this year the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) wrote to all registered hairdressers informing them of recommended changes to the current system of regulating the hairdressing industry. This was outlined in a position paper which was made available upon request from DOCEP by mail or by downloading a copy from their website at www.docep.wa.gov.au/reviews. The letter requested submissions from the hairdressing industry in response to the recommendations in the position paper which were to be forwarded to DOCEP by the amended date of the 20th October 2006.

The Board has produced a position paper in response to DOCEP's, in which it makes recommendations that it believes better reflects a way forward in terms of the regulation of the hairdressing industry. The Board strongly supports the retention of the Hairdressers Registration Act and Regulations but agrees that the current legislation is antiquated and needs to be amended.

Below are a few of the recommendations outlined in the HRB position paper:

1. An Advisory Committee be appointed to recommend to DOCEP the appropriate qualifications, training and experience necessary to become a registered hairdresser in WA
2. Theory & Practical examinations be conducted for those applicants that do not have a like form of training to that of a WA apprentice

3. Registration fees continue to be payable annually
4. Registration fees to be reduced provided the integrity of the registration compliance process is not jeopardised
5. Principals in hairdressing establishments be maintained
6. Penalties for unqualified persons practicing as a hairdresser be increased to \$3000.00 (These penalties will also extend to Salon owners/managers who knowingly employ unregistered hairdressers)
7. Compliance checks on hairdressing establishments be maintained
8. The practice of granting an 'Authority to Work' be maintained

We believe that our proposed position will serve not only to reduce the financial impact of regulating the hairdressing industry but will also continue to support a high level of **consumer protection** as well as **maintaining the professional standards** that are currently experienced in the industry.

If you would like a copy of the HRB position paper, you can download a copy from our website at www.hrb.org.au or alternatively call us on 9381 9966 and we can arrange to send you one.

Public Register

The Board would like to remind you that the public register on the HRB website allows for salon owners, hairdressers and consumers to access the following details of individual hairdressers:

1. Status of Registration (ie. Registered, Unregistered, Suspended, Applicant)
2. Type of Registration (ie. Principal or Employee)
3. Class of Registration (ie. Combined, Ladies or Men's)

To access this information you will need to have either the hairdressers surname as listed on the register or their registration ID. Alternatively you can contact the Board on 9381 9966 to obtain this information.

Head Lice

Do you cut their hair – don't you cut their hair?
It is up to you. But consider these facts.

Q. Do Health Regulations prohibit hairdressers from cutting the hair of a person with head lice or nits?

A. NO

facts

- Head lice can be found on the cleanest of hair.
- They thrive in clean hair.
- Anyone can catch head lice.
- They do not make you sick.
- It is not a disgrace.
- Head lice do not jump, fly or swim.
- They can be caught only by close head to head contact.

Q. Can a hairdresser cut hair if the hairdresser has head lice?

A. NO

Hairdressing Establishment Regulations prohibit any hairdresser that is suffering from any infectious or contagious disease; skin rash or eruption or verminous infestation; from attending a customer.

Q. If a hairdresser cuts the hair of someone with head lice or nits do they need to take any special precautions?

A. NO

There are no special precautions. As with all other clients the cleaning requirements as contained in the Hairdressing Establishment Regulation must be complied with.

Q. Can a hairdresser refuse to cut the hair of a person who has head lice or nits?

A. YES, but not on health grounds.

- Hairdressers have a general right at common law to refuse service.
- This refusal would rely on the general right of a hairdresser to contract, as he or she thinks fit.
- Common law in modern society is, by legislation, subject to many exceptions Modern statutes forbid a person the right to refuse to contract on the grounds of the sex, racial group or sexual inclination of the would be contractor.
- It is up to each individual hairdresser to decide how they will approach this problem.
- One thing is very certain, clients will appreciate a professional and caring approach from their hairdresser.

For further information regarding head lice please contact Chris Brenton from the Health Department on 9388 4857 or to obtain a Head Lice Fact Sheet contact the publication department on 1300 135 030.

Australian Hairdressers Register

Recent enquiries to the Board have asked about the function of the Australian Hairdressers Register (AHR) that is located in the Eastern States. The AHR's website indicates that their role is to 'help review the way products and services are purchased and the main objective is to assist consumer confidence'.

The HRB advises that the AHR registration fee is not compulsory and suggests that you should only become a member if you believe that it will be of benefit to your business.

Should you have any queries on this matter please contact us on 93819966.

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