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Building and Energy  
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To Whom It May Concern

### **Remote Aboriginal Communities Plumbing Scheme**

I write to you on behalf of Master Plumbers Australia and New Zealand (MPANZ) in response to the Remote Aboriginal Communities Plumbing Scheme. MPANZ supports the submission from the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of Western Australia.

MPANZ represents member Associations across Australia and New Zealand. We are the collective voice for the Australian and New Zealand plumbing industry and collaborates together on a national and international level. Members of MPANZ protect the health of our community and the environment through the delivery of professional plumbing services. MPA represents plumbing contractors from sole operators to medium sized plumbing businesses and large contracting firms.

MPANZ members are installers of gas, water reticulation and irrigation systems, fire protection services, heating and cooling, mechanical services/air conditioning systems, sanitary disposal, drainage, metal roofing, wall cladding and other plumbing services. The provision of these services is essential for community health and well-being and we support that remote aboriginal communities should have the right to plumbing facilities and services regardless of their location.

MPANZ is opposed to the proposed options as outlined in the discussion paper and also opposed to all the proposed options for allowing persons who aren't qualified plumbers and gasfitters to perform basic plumbing work in communities. As plumbing protects the health and safety of the community we see no reason why remote communities deserve a lesser standard of health, hygiene and sanitation than the rest of the country, as this is licensed and regulated work for a reason.

Plumbers have undergone rigorous training under an apprenticeship, hold the relevant licenses and insurances. This essential training is directly responsible for the safe delivery of water and removal of waste. Laws and licensing surrounding plumbing work are in place to protect the community and directly responsible for the overall wellbeing and limited disease improper handling of these two essential requirements.

Knowing how to fix 'basic' problems is not enough Standards of plumbing work need to be of a high standard for all communities including remote communities – there shouldn't be a difference.

Plumbing, drainage and gas trades are administered by a strict licensing and legislative regime. This is to ensure the safety and protection of the community through the provision of clean drinking water, sanitation, and gas. These trades are strictly governed as the skills required to safely handle water and waste which are there to protect the community.

As an alternative solution, Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of WA proposed an apprentice training scheme for young people from the communities. The scheme they proposed would build skills, create employment opportunities and make communities more viable.

For further information please contact our Secretariat on 07 3273 0800 or 0418 724 457 or via email at [penny.cornah@mpag.com.au](mailto:penny.cornah@mpag.com.au).

Kind regards

**Robert Pearshouse**  
Chairman  
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