

Policy

PLUMBERS LICENSING BOARD

Qualifications required for an authorised worker

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide members of the Plumbers Licensing Board (Board), and departmental officers delegated by the Board, in making appropriate, consistent and legally valid decisions regarding the experience and qualification requirements for an authorised worker under Part 4A of the *Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards Regulations 2000* (Regulations).

Scope

This policy applies to authorised workers and service providers under the Regulations.

The policy does not limit or inhibit the Board's discretion in taking a decision outside these principles and in accordance with the Regulations, based on individual circumstances.

Definitions

Authorised worker	Means a person described in regulation 37 of the Regulations.
Eligible remote community	Means an Aboriginal community listed on a website maintained by the Building Commissioner.
Licensed plumbing contractor	Means a person who holds a plumbing contractor's licence.
Plumbing contractor's licence	Means a licence described in regulations 12 and 13 of the Regulations.
Service provider	Means a person contracted by the Health Department to provide Aboriginal environmental health services to an eligible remote community.

Background

From time to time, basic plumbing work needs to be carried out in remote and inaccessible Aboriginal communities to prevent a risk to human health or safety, or to prevent a significant waste of water. A licensed plumbing contractor may be reasonably unable to attend at the community in a timely manner to carry out the plumbing work.

In these circumstances, certain persons who have undertaken relevant plumbing related training are allowed to carry out prescribed plumbing work, even though they are not licensed plumbing contractors (known as 'authorised workers'). There are strict requirements on the qualifications that must be held by authorised workers, and limitations on the plumbing work

that is permitted to be done by authorised workers. The work must also be carried out under the direction and control of a service provider.

Assessment of Qualifications

In deciding whether a person is an authorised worker for the purposes of Part 4A of the Regulations, the Board will apply the following policy to assess whether the person meets the qualification requirements set out in regulation 37.

The Board requires the following to assess the person's competency:

- Evidence issued by a registered training provider that the person holds a qualification at Certificate II level or above under the Australian Qualifications Framework in any of the following subject areas, or an equivalent qualification approved by the Board:
 - environmental health;
 - Indigenous environmental health;
 - population health;
 - public health; or
 - preventative health.

AND

- A statement of attainment from a registered training provider stating that the person named in the statement has successfully completed the qualifying plumbing units set out in Table 1 below, or equivalent plumbing units approved by the Board.

1. Qualifying plumbing units for an authorised worker

Required units of competency
1 – Provide basic repairs and maintenance to health hardware and fixtures (HLTPOP025 or HLTPOP001).
2 – Monitor and maintain sewage or effluent systems (HLTPOP026 or HLTPOP002).
3 – Monitor and maintain water supply (HLTPOP027 or HLTPOP003).

Policy Principles and Implementation

The Board's assessment of a person's competency to be an authorised worker under regulation 37 of the Regulations will be conducted as set out in this policy document.

Departmental officers delegated by the Board will assess the qualifications of authorised workers in a manner that conforms to this policy and will inform authorised workers and service providers of this policy.

Governance

Plumbers Licensing Board Approval	
Meeting date: 26 August 2024	Item number: 4.2
Chairperson signature:	<i>Rebecca Johnston</i>
Next review:	August 2026