



6 April 2020

Michelle Collins
Journalist
Sunday Mail
michelle.collins@news.com.au

Dear Ms Collins

Article – Sunday Mail – “Australian Ingenuity saves the day again”

I am contacting you on behalf of the Master Plumbers' Association of Queensland (MPAQ) regarding an article you wrote called “Australian Ingenuity saves the day again” published in the Sunday Mail on 5 April 2020.

MPAQ has received a large volume of calls and emails from our members regarding this article which **states “that with all the toilet nonsense going my partner attached a simple hose to our toilet tap, so we now hose rather than wipe, a bit like a bidet.”**

Installing the hose to the toilet is illegal and could put the health and safety of your family at risk. It is also in direct contravention to the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2019 which states that plumbing work must only be undertaken by a licensed person. Additionally, it is an offence to direct unlicensed persons to perform regulated work, there are substantial fines associated with both of these offences not to mention the insurance implications when DIY plumbing fails.

MPAQ has advised the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC), the regulator for plumbing and drainage work in Queensland about this matter and it has been referred to the nonconforming building products team to review.

MPAQ is encouraging consumers to not install DIY hoses and bidets during the global COVID-19 crisis. Plumbing, drainage and gas fitting work is essential to ensuring the health and safety of our community, and this is particularly important given the viral pandemic that we are currently facing.

Plumbing, drainage and gas trades are administered by a strict licensing and legislative regime for a reason, water and waste are directly linked to the health and safety of the community. Which is why it is imperative that persons hold the relative licences and insurances, this is to ensure the safety and protection of the community through the provision of clean drinking water, sanitation, and gas.

MPAQ would request that a retraction is issued immediately and in a future article you advise readers of the risks associated with unlicensed persons undertaking plumbing and gas work.

If you require any further information please contact me on 0418 724 457 or via email at penny.cornah@mpaq.com.au.

Kind regards

Penny Cornah
Executive Director
Master Plumbers Association of Queensland