

D&GS Chairman's Report 16th July 2020

It has been quite an interesting year, with challenges none of us expected. That said the D&GS committee have continued their dedication and adapted to the new world.

In line with the SAQCC Fire overall vision and mission statements, the D&GS Sub-Committee have focused our goals on 3 main points:

- Establish recognised qualifications
- Uplift level of professionalism in the industry
- Provide relevant resources for both technicians and consumers

In order to achieve this we have continued to approve new training courses. We now have a choice of training schools available for fire detection cabling, installer and commissioner levels. We are now, finally, at the stage of having sufficient training courses in the gas installer and commissioner levels that we can look at transitioning away from the assessment tests for these levels. I would like to give my sincere thanks to Hanlie Truter whose dogged persistence and passion has kept the momentum in getting these courses vetted. I cannot, of course, forget to thank all the volunteer assessors, without whom none of this would be possible. Special thanks to Nick Collins who is widely abused by Hanlie to vet these courses, while also marking the gas assessment papers.

While the QCTO process has not gone how we would have liked, we have continued to be a part of both the Fire Alarm Technician panel of experts and the Gas Suppression qualifications. I strongly believe that if we continue to maintain our professionalism in dealing with these processes we will succeed in the end.

In line with uplifting the professionalism in the industry we are working toward having a summative assessment test in place by the end of year. This will ensure a level of consistency for everyone re-registering to their particular level of competency.

Despite the disappointment of not being able to run our usual roadshows, the D&GS committee have endeavoured to keep in touch with our technicians. The D&GS newsletter email is now onto number 3 and following a test run webinar we are due to take our roadshow material to the masses via Webinar. We have strong armed the Chairman into doing some videos for our new SAQCC Fire YouTube Channel and have further plans for more videos and website updates.

I would like finish by thanking the committee for all their efforts over the year, especially our new members John and JP, who have got stuck into helping out with vetting courses. I would also like to thank vice-chair Clive Foord and Treasurer Brett Birch for all their work and support in ensuring the committee stays on budget and keeps motivated, despite the challenges.

We look forward to exploiting new technologies to keep up the good work.

Thank you