

NEW ZEALAND PLUMBING AND GASFITTING INDUSTRY—AMENDMENT OF
APPRENTICESHIP ORDER

In the Court of Arbitration of New Zealand.—In the matter of the Apprentices Act 1948; and in the matter of the New Zealand Plumbing and Gasfitting Industry apprenticeship order, dated the 25th day of May 1948, and recorded in 48 Book of Awards 808.

WHEREAS by section 13 (2) of the Apprentices Act 1948, the Court is empowered to amend any apprenticeship order; and whereas application has been made to the Court by the New Zealand Federation of Master Plumbers Industrial Association of Employers for amendment of the New Zealand Plumbing and Gasfitting Industry apprenticeship order, dated the 25th day of May 1948, and recorded in 48 Book of Awards 808: and whereas the Court has heard the employers, workers, and other persons concerned: Now, therefore, the Court, in pursuance and exercise of the powers vested in it by the said Act, doth hereby order as follows:—

1. That the said apprenticeship order shall be amended by adding to sub-clause (c) of clause 9 (Proportion) the following proviso:—

“Provided that on application made by or through a local Committee the New Zealand Committee may fix the number of apprentices or the proportion of apprentices to journeymen that may be employed by any employer.”

2. That this order shall operate from the day of the date hereof.

Dated this 23rd day of December 1954.

[L.S.]

A. TYNDALL, Judge.

MEMORANDUM

The Court agrees that, in the best interests of the country, there should be more apprentices to the plumbing section of the industry.

Information placed before the Court by organizations of both employers and workers indicates quite clearly that no effort is being made by a great number of master plumbers to train apprentices, and that within the limits of the present proportion clause many hundreds of additional apprentices could be engaged. We are assured by the representative of the employers, however, that there are a number of reputable firms whose quota of apprentices under the present order is full, but who nevertheless would be prepared to enter into further apprenticeship contracts.

To enable advantage to be taken of this situation, we do not consider it necessary to amend the apprenticeship order in the manner requested by the employers, but we do think that there should be some provision for controlled relaxation of the rigid requirements of the proportion clause to a degree similar to that which prevails in the apprenticeship orders for several other industries, despite the fact that there is no certainty that sufficient youths will be available to take up the additional contracts. We do not consider that, under present circumstances, a position should be allowed to arise where a boy with the necessary qualifications who is desirous of joining the industry is completely debarred through the operation of the proportion clause from entering into an apprenticeship contract with an employer deemed by the New Zealand Apprenticeship Committee to be capable of satisfactorily training him in addition to his normal quota of apprentices.

A. TYNDALL, Judge.