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Registered Master Builders Federation Annual Conference

The BCITO is making a considered effort to get around the range of industry conferences this year, given the increased priority being placed on industry skill levels and education and training.

We were invited to speak at and also attended the Registered Master Builders Federation Annual Conference in Christchurch, held over the weekend of the 23-25th April.

The conference was well attended by RMBF members from all over the country, who came to hear a variety of speakers talk on topics that affect our industry.

Minister of Commerce Hon Margaret Wilson spoke to the delegates about the proposed changes to the Building Bill and the introduction of licensing for those people working within the building and construction industry.

In her speech, the Minister told the conference the regulation of the industry will mean learning new rules and new ways of doing things.

“Regulations made under the Bill will list the types of critical building work covered by the licensing regime and that therefore must be done or supervised by a licensed practitioner. We want the DIY builder to still be able to do minor repairs and renovations. But we want the professional to be involved when it really does matter,” she told the delegates at the conference.

The Minister went on to talk about the implications that the licensing regime will have on training and education in the industry.

“We must make sure there are robust unit standards or comparable measures of competency; that there are enough quality training programmes for any who need to upskill to reach that level of competency, and that these are delivered by appropriate training providers”.

The BCITO has been working with the Ministry of Economic Development on the development of the licensing regime alongside other industry representatives and stakeholders.

The Ministers speech highlighted that the Government is aware the introduction of a licensing regime will lead to an increase in demand for training and education within the building and construction industry – and that’s on top of the record number of people already

signing into training agreements with the BCITO. Licensing will herald a new phase for the broader construction industry, and the BCITO is looking forward to working with the industry to lift the numbers of people who are appropriately skilled and qualified.