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Australia's Greatest Consumer Rip-off – Air Conditioning Installations.

The introduction of the National Arctic licensing system in 2005 provides for electricians and plumbers throughout Australia to undertake as little as a 2 day course to qualify for the Arctick "SPLIT" licence. A licence limited to the installation only of back to back domestic split system air conditioners below 18kw.

"RACCA-IRASE" Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors Association, President, Brian Vaughan states, "In QLD our industry has been hijacked by the electrical trade to the extent many trade qualified Refrigeration & Air Conditioning contractors are now seeking alternative employment, including using their work vehicles as delivery vans."

Mr Vaughan further states, "When you notice a "Fridgies" van towing a lawn mowing trailer and then further down the road an electrical contractor whose main advertising on his vehicle is Air Conditioning Installations, you begin to truly appreciate the grim reality of our hijacked trade."

"One major retailer with a list of 300 installers, terminated 299 qualified trades people and replaced them with 299 Split installers, why, because split installers can do the work cheaper, therefore providing retailers an avenue to offer cheaper prices on combined units and installations."

Mr Vaughan said "FRIDGIES are becoming more and more frustrated at the amount of faults they now have to fix for consumers as a result of poor installations."

Mr Vaughan said "Consumers are totally unaware as to the extent of the consumer rip-off or the environmental damage occurring," State and Federal Governments have implemented illogical legislation and through Arctick's "Slap Happy way", handed out split licences to other trades who have NO UNDERSTANDING of the dynamics of air conditioners, they (Split Installers) cannot legally repair their own faults, service or maintain the units they install as they do not have the knowledge or training that a RAC Specialist has acquired through a 4 year apprenticeship, therefore cannot provide any warranty on their installation work." Well. We certainly see plenty of advertising by electrical contractors offering service maintenance and repairs; they do it because there is no policing."

"Since the takeover of our trade in 2005, we estimate around 80% of all warranty work results from poor installations and an estimated 600% increase in warranty claims." "There is a gross misrepresentation by our Governments and Arctick to consumers, portraying split installers as qualified and trained, they fail to advise every unit installed by a split installer is flawed from the moment the consumer turns the air conditioner on, why? Because split installers do not know how to commission units to operate at optimal design parameters."

"Consumers are paying larger power bills to compensate for these poor installations and they probably don't even realise it."

"Every unit incorrectly installed is generating even more greenhouse gas emissions; it would appear our Governments are confused on the steps we need to reduce our greenhouse emissions, choosing instead to dramatically increase them."

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