

LBP with over 40 years' experience still committed to the industry

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There are three things Kevin Thompson is passionate about – motorcycles, playing music, and the LBP scheme.



"The scheme creates accountability", says the Christchurch-based carpentry LBP.

"The building industry is busy at the moment, so it's a good thing the LBP scheme is in place as it ensures there is a reference point for people to know what is restricted building work and who can do it. And with the scheme's skills maintenance requirements, you know an LBP has kept up with the latest changes to the Building Code."

Kevin is currently a Building Controls Officer for the Christchurch City Council, putting his 40-plus years of experience in the industry, mostly in residential housing, to good use.

"I started building at 17 as an apprentice carpenter with the Māori Affairs Trade Training Scheme, followed by successive years of self-employment in New Zealand and Australia and finally ending up in the South Island."

Following the earthquakes, Kevin headed to Christchurch to assess the skills needed for the Canterbury rebuild within the Built Environment Training Alliance (BETA), before returning to Dunedin.

Within two years, he had joined the Christchurch City Council as a Building Inspector, before taking up his current role of Building Controls

Officer in 2017.

"I get to see the onsite LBP side of things when I attend inspections, and part of the requirements for processing a consent is to figure out what is restricted building work. Being an LBP helps with that.

"My time as an inspector in Christchurch highlighted the need for old-school tradespeople to get familiar with the difference between NZS3604 and the Building Code through regular upskilling. When I get a call from a client seeking building advice, I know where to find the right section to show the customer what the Building Code requires.

"The LBP scheme has been around since 2004 and it's good to see younger tradespeople embracing what it means to be a LBP."



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