



SAY THANKS: HUG A PLUMBER

We're being encouraged to hug a plumber to mark World Plumbing Day on 11 March and say thanks to Western Australia's hardworking "sanitation guardians".

CONSIDERED the unsung heroes and protectors of sanitation, plumbers have a major role to play in world health.

"Here in Western Australia we turn on the tap or flush the toilet without thinking about it, but without good plumbing and sanitation we would be at the mercy of water-related diseases such as cholera, arsenicosis, bilharzia and typhoid," says Murray Thomas, CEO of the Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of WA.

"While drains, valves and S-bends may not be a popular topic of conversation at the dinner table, good sanitation is vital, especially considering that Western Australians each use a whopping 132,000 litres of water on average every year."

There are currently more than 7,000 registered plumbers in WA and approximately 1,200 apprentices, making World Plumbing Day an important date on the local calendar.

"Everyday we wash, we use the bathroom and we drink water from the tap and we never give it a second thought," Murray says.

"World Plumbing Day on March 11 is the day to recognise that we're so lucky in that respect. Can you imagine drinking water that contained potentially lethal bacteria or chemicals?"

According to the World Health Organisation, 1.1 billion people in the world do not have access to a safe, clean water

supply and 2.6 billion people don't enjoy the use of an effective sanitation system. The tragic result is that 3.1 million children die each year as a result of water related diseases that could have been prevented if they'd only had access to basic facilities.

"So we're urging WA to get behind World Plumbing Day and say thanks to the guardians of our drinking water and sanitation systems," Murray says.

"Go on, don't be shy! Let your plumber know you recognise the vital role they play in the health and safety of our community."

"Hug a plumber in real life to say thanks and post your photo on our facebook page www.facebook.com/MasterPlumbersWA"

