

# Supporting in-ground sanitary plumbing and drainage pipework

## Plumbing Advisory Note

Issued October 2016

The aim of this Advisory Note is to clarify the support needed for in-ground sanitary plumbing and drainage pipework.

The Office of Technical Regulator (OTR) conducts audits of on-site plumbing to ensure installations comply with the performance requirements of the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA). The OTR has identified cases where sanitary plumbing and drainage pipework crossing through concrete footings and structures has not been installed with adequate support to prevent the pipework from being dislodged during the concrete installation process.

To ensure the performance requirements of the PCA are met:

- pipework shall be located so that it is protected from mechanical damage
- pipework shall have adequate support to maintain the integrity of the plumbing system (see figure 1)
- pipework shall not be installed in any structural concrete slab, beam, column, concrete wall or loadbearing brickwork, unless specifically included in the design of the structural element (see figure 2)

**Note:** If required, plumbers may engage an engineer to determine the means to achieve adequate support and lagging of pipework.



**Figure 1: U-PVC pipework installation crossing concrete footing.** This installation includes pipe support in the form of a bracket and support.



**Figure 2: HDPE pipework installation professionally engineered to be installed in concrete structure.** The installation includes brackets and support.

The Plumbing Code of Australia sets out the performance requirements for sanitary plumbing systems in Part C1 section CP1.1.