

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

Contact: **Carolyn Warman**
Phone: (08) 8204 9507
0417 815 800

**Education and
Information Services**

Level 1
Chesser House
91-97 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1719
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 225

Tel 08 8204 9516
Fax 08 8204 9509

www.ocba.sa.gov.au

8 August 2006

Kitchen renovation ends in disaster

Jai Billy Henderson and David John Costi, trading as JD Stylus Home Renovations, have been convicted in the Adelaide Magistrates Court over offences relating to unlicensed building and electrical work. The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) commenced prosecution action after investigating a complaint received by a consumer, Ms "S".

Ms "S" alleges that when she opened the door of an overhead cupboard installed by the defendant's business, the entire cupboard came off the wall and struck her in the face. Also damaged in the process were the cupboard itself, a bench top, floor tiles, electrical appliances and crockery.

A false licence number was quoted on documentation used by Henderson and Costi, which may have misled consumers to believe that they were licensed building work contractors.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat, said "One of the major reasons builders and tradespeople have to be licensed is to protect consumers against sub-standard work. This is the second in a matter of weeks that the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs has completed court action against unlicensed kitchen renovators."

Henderson and Costi were fined \$8,500 and \$7,500 respectively, plus legal costs.

Mr Bodycoat said there were two strong messages in the latest outcome. The first was a reminder to tradespeople to make sure they hold the licences they need to. "OCBA can help you work out whether you need to hold a licence."

The second message was for consumers. "When you are arranging to get someone to do home renovations, check that any builder or tradesperson holds the correct licence for the type of work they are contracting for", Mr Bodycoat said. "Don't just rely on their assertions. Check OCBA's website as well. Visit the Licensing Public Register at www.ocba.sa.gov.au"

Consumers should also ask to see a tradesperson's licence card and check the back of it to see the scope of work they are entitled to undertake.

To report unlicensed activity contact OCBA on (08) 8204 9777 or 131 882 for country callers.