

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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Brickie convicted and fined

A southeast bricklayer, who subcontracted for work that he was not licensed to do, has been convicted and fined in the Mount Gambier Magistrates Court

Mr Geoffrey Godena, was convicted on 2 counts of breaching the *Building Work Contractors Act 1995* and was fined \$1700 plus costs.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat said the decision clarified a common misunderstanding about occupational licences.

“Some people think that they don’t need a licence because they do not contract directly with members of the public. This decision makes it very clear that this is just wrong.”

Between January 2005 and November 2005, Mr Godena was paid approximately \$46 000 for the performance of building work.

“OCBA warned Mr Godena about the need to be licensed, but he continued to subcontract his bricklaying services.”

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) found that Mr Godena had been a subcontract bricklayer to a major southeast homebuilder. On a number of occasions Godena was warned by OCBA that he need to be licensed as a building work contractor to carry on business as a subcontract bricklayer. Mr Godena continued to carry on business as a building work contractor without a licence.

“The licensing system is meant to provide some protection for both consumers and the industry from unqualified tradespeople. They pose a risk to the public. If a person performs work that they are not licensed to do then they risk being caught and facing prosecution and/or disciplinary action.”

Consumers and businesses are encouraged to check the licensing public register before they contract with any tradesperson. They should also report any unlicensed activity or inferior quality work to OCBA.

To find a licensed tradesperson or to verify someone’s licence details, consumers and businesses are encouraged to visit the Licensing Public Register at www.ocba.sa.gov.au or telephone 131 882.