

# Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and  
Business Affairs

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## **BUILDER PERMANENTLY BANNED**

A Morphett Vale man has been permanently banned from being licensed or registered as a building contractor after he was convicted and fined earlier this year for performing shoddy, unlicensed building work.

William James Gibbs was fined \$4000 plus costs in the Adelaide Magistrates Court earlier this year after holding himself out to be a qualified building contractor in breach of the *Building Work Contractors Act 1995* (Act).

Yesterday, in the District Court, the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) took disciplinary action against Mr Gibbs who has now been permanently disqualified from being licensed or registered under the *Act*.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs Mal Hemmerling says that consumers affected by Mr Gibbs' poor work had hired him for jobs ranging from the installation of wall cladding and fixtures to painting and fencing.

"Mr Gibbs' breaches of the Building Work Contractors Act 1995 showed a complete disregard for the law. He received in excess of \$11,000 from consumers and breached their trust. In some cases his work was so substandard that it had to be demolished and redone by qualified, licensed builders."

"The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs take breaches of the law very seriously and is always keen to follow up allegations of such illegal behaviour. In the case of Mr Gibbs OCBA issued a warning to the public not to deal with Gibbs before it could take prosecution action.

"OCBA says before a consumer hires a tradesperson they should check the tradesperson's licence ID card and the Licensing Public Register before commissioning any work or handing over any money.

"The licensing system aims to protect both consumers and reputable builders and tradespeople from the harm that can be wreaked by unqualified and incompetent tradespeople.

"Consumers should report any unlicensed activity or poor quality work to OCBA."

Consumers can contact the OCBA on (08) 8204 9777, country callers 131 882 or visit the Licensing Public Register at [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au) to check whether a person is appropriately licensed or to find a licensed tradesperson in their local area.