Media Release

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2 November 2007

Unlicensed builder fined

A builder who advertised and carried on a business as a building work contractor, conducting faulty guttering work, has been fined $4000 in the Adelaide Magistrates Court.

Mr Gary Cutting was charged with and pleaded guilty to one count of carrying on business as a building work contractor without a licence and three counts of advertising that he was entitled to carry on business as a building work contractor whilst not licensed.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mal Hemmerling, has warned that he will take action against unlicensed builders.

“This case serves as a warning to other persons who carry on business as a building work contractor without a licence. The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) has an active compliance program in place to detect unlicensed or ineligible builders. This program, together with consumer reports and ongoing audits mean that it is highly likely that unlicensed builders will be identified”

Mr Cutting’s building work supervisor’s registration lapsed in 2002 and he had been warned that he was not entitled to carry on business or advertise as a building work contractor. He also advertised one licence and one registration number in local Messenger newspapers when he was not entitled to use those numbers.

“Builders and tradespeople need to understand that the licensing system is in place for consumer protection. If they carry out work without the necessary licence, they risk being caught and face prosecution and disciplinary action.”

To report unlicensed activity or poor quality work, contact OCBA on (08) 8204 9777 or 131 882 for country callers. To check whether a person holds a licence, or to verify someone’s licence details, visit the Licensing Public register at www.ocba.sa.gov.au.