

News Release

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Hon Gail Gago
Minister for State/Local Government Relations
Minister for the Status of Women
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister Government Enterprises
Minister Ast Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Energy

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PHONE-IN RESULTS ZERO IN ON UNLICENSED TRADESPEOPLE

Reports of tradies behaving badly have emerged during a two day phone-in to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) about unlicensed builders and tradespeople.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago says the dodgy unlicensed conduct alleged in some of the calls included a fraudulent development application to a council, a tradesperson threatening a consumer and reports of shoddy work.

“The problems reported in some calls were concerning and many callers didn’t wish to identify themselves for fear of reprisals.”

OCBA received more than 30 calls during the two-day phone-in, including reports from consumers who felt they had been treated badly by unlicensed tradespeople and information from reputable tradespeople wishing to rid the industry of illegal operators.

Calls came in from across the state and include allegations of well known companies hiring unlicensed contractors, unlicensed contractors ‘boasting’ that they didn’t have a licence and providing false business details.

Minister Gago says the phone-in has given OCBA many leads to investigate. The tip offs relate to tradespeople across all fields of building, plumbing, gas fitting and electrical work.

“The results of this phone-in raised some areas of concern and South Australians should be commended for having the courage to report these crooks.”

“OCBA is now sorting through the fresh allegations recorded during the campaign to independently verify information and launch relevant investigations.”

OCBA sent out 374 written warnings for unlicensed contracting last financial year and 8 people were prosecuted in the courts. Penalties of up to \$20,000 can be imposed for those convicted engaging in unlicensed work.

Unlicensed tradespeople can continue to be reported to OCBA’s licensing compliance team between 9am and 5pm weekdays on 8204 8100 or 131 882 for country callers.

To check if someone is licensed consumers can visit OCBA’s Licensing Public Register at www.ocba.sa.gov.au/licensing