

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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DOB IN AN UNLICENSED TRADESPERSON

South Australians are invited to ‘dob in’ an unlicensed tradesperson during a 2-day call in campaign as the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs turns up the heat on dodgy tradespeople.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago says that tradespeople who contract for work without the appropriate licence are breaking the law and their work is often not up to scratch, potentially leaving a hefty repair bill.

“If someone isn’t licensed then they’re probably not qualified or capable of doing the work, and the end result may be an unsightly mess,” says Minister Gago.

“There are many stories of consumers who’ve had to shell out money to have substandard or even unsafe work fixed as a result of hiring an unlicensed tradesperson.”

OCBA is keen to hear from consumers or industry members who are aware of unlicensed tradespeople contracting for work. Trades covered by licensing laws include plumbers, gas fitters, electricians, and various building trades such as tiling and landscaping.

“Laws make it quite clear what trades are required to be licensed, but there are always some unscrupulous people trying to cash in on the constant demand for repairs or renovations.”

The phone-in will be conducted tomorrow and Thursday (24 & 25 June), with OCBA looking to gather evidence of unlicensed contracting. Callers will be encouraged to send in copies of invoices, advertisements or other proof to assist investigations, however callers can remain anonymous.

OCBA conducts a number of checks each year to identify tradespeople who operate without a licence or work outside their licence conditions. Compliance activities include checking advertisements in newspapers and phone books, visiting building sites to inspect licences and also following up reports of unlicensed activity from consumers.

Around a third of the 26 court matters resolved this financial year have related to unlicensed activity by builders and tradespeople, and 374 warning letters have been sent.

“Reports from the public during this phone-in will help OCBA catch these rogue operators who could face penalties of up to \$20,000 under the relevant industry acts.”

To report an unlicensed tradesperson call OCBA’s licensing compliance team between 9am and 5pm 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