

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

Contact: **Immacolata Bollella**
Phone: 8204 9512

**Education and
Information Services**

Ground Floor
Chesser House
91-97 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1719
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 225

Tel 08 8204 9516
Fax 08 8204 9509

www.ocba.sa.gov.au

18 June 2007

Dubious builder receives huge fine

In the Adelaide Magistrates Court, Mr Richard Doolin, formerly of Salisbury Heights and now residing in Queensland, was convicted and fined \$17 800 for five counts of breaching the *Building Work Contractors Act 1995*. Doolin was guilty of contracting for services without an appropriate licence.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) found that Doolin had advertised to arrange a wide range of building services. The work he contracted for was of poor quality and was not completed. Doolin advertised himself as a “design consultant and trade co-ordinator” when he was not authorised to carry on business as a building contractor.

On one occasion Doolin began building a pergola and rumpus room without seeking the appropriate council development approval and did not furnish the owners of the property with a certificate evidencing that he held a policy of indemnity insurance as required. He also required from the property owners a deposit in excess of what is authorised under the *Building Work Contractors Regulations 1996*.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat said the result demonstrated the importance of the licensing system.

“The licensing system is in place to protect consumers from substandard builders such as Mr Doolin. The licensing system ensures only qualified and reputable tradespeople are working in the industry.”

“This case also highlights why people should do their homework and check to see if the tradesperson they intend to contract is appropriately licensed.”

Under the *Building Work Contractors Act 1995* builders who contract for domestic building work costing more than \$12,000, that requires approval under the *Development Act 1993*, must provide the home owner with a certificate of indemnity insurance before building work commences.

“Consumers can check the Licensing Public Register on the OCBA website or contact OCBA by phone to check whether a tradesperson is licensed and what he or she is licensed to do.”

Mr Bodycoat also said that this case should act as a warning to others in the industry.

“If any other tradesperson or builder decides to do work they are not licensed to do then they risk being caught and facing prosecution action just like Doolin.”

To report unlicensed building activity or substandard work contact OCBA on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for country callers. To verify a person or company is licensed visit the Licensing Public Register at www.ocba.sa.gov.au.