

# Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and  
Business Affairs

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## Dangerous gas fitter in court

A Whyalla Stuart household found their gas cooker was not secured adequately, creating a hazardous situation if the oven was pulled forward, particularly with children in close proximity.

Their concerns had a sequel in the Whyalla Magistrates Court, when Clifford James (Jim) Higgins, of Whyalla, was convicted of two counts of breaching the Plumbers, Gas Fitters and Electricians Act, 1995. He was fined a total of \$3000 plus legal costs.

Mr Higgins performed gas-fitting work when he was not the holder of a gas fitting worker's registration and held himself out as being legally entitled to perform gas-fitting work when he wasn't.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) discovered that in February 2006 Mr Higgins performed gas-fitting work by installing a gas oven at Whyalla Stuart.

OCBA has taken disciplinary action previously against Higgins for performing gas-fitting work while unregistered and for performing negligent gas fitting work.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat said that Higgins' actions showed a disregard for the licensing system and his actions put other people's safety at risk.

"Mr. Higgins has no regard for the licensing system. The licensing system tries to provide certainty that trades people are suitably qualified and capable of doing particular types of work. In gas fitting the aim is to ensure consumers are adequately protected from dangerous situations."

"Consumers should hire an appropriately licensed tradesperson for this very reason."

Members of the public can contact the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs 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. OCBA also encourages consumers to ask to see a licence card and read any conditions shown on the register or on the card.