

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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Warning - Don't hire this tradesperson

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) today issued a strong warning to consumers not to use the services of William James Gibbs of Morphett Vale, an unlicensed builder. Gibbs has been holding himself out as capable of doing a range of building jobs, including cladding, and painting. He even contracted to do a renovation job to the value of \$40 000.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat said that Gibbs was not licensed to do these types of jobs, but has sought large amounts of money for jobs he never performs or completes.

“Consumers are advised not to contract William James Gibbs of Morphett Vale. He holds himself out as someone who can do building work, but so far has not performed, has failed to complete work, and will not repay monies owed to consumers.”

OCBA received complaints from consumers who had hired Gibbs for a variety of jobs such as cladding, fixtures, painting and supplying and fitting insulation into a ceiling cavity. One consumer alone was stung by Gibbs for a \$40 000 renovation contract that he failed to complete.

“Gibbs has been requested to come into OCBA on several occasions to discuss these complaints and his unlicensed status, but has failed to reply to correspondence and has consistently resisted OCBA's attempts to resolve the complaints received.”

OCBA encourages consumers to check a tradesperson's licensing ID card and the Licensing Public Register before hiring a tradesperson.

“The licensing system is meant to provide some protection for both consumers and the industry from unqualified and incompetent tradespeople. Before considering hiring a tradesperson, consumers are urged to check OCBA's Licensing Public Register and ensure that any contractor is appropriately licensed.”

In South Australia specific tradespeople have to be licensed to do some things. The licensing system is designed to protect consumers by ensuring that tradespeople are adequately qualified and meet specific eligibility criteria.

“Consumers should also report any unlicensed activity or inferior quality work to OCBA.”

Consumers 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 to check whether a person is appropriately licensed or to find a licensed tradesperson in their local area.