

# Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and  
Business Affairs

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## UNLICENSED TILER PROSECUTED, ORDERED TO PAY COMPENSATION

An unlicensed tiler who performed substandard work was found guilty in the Elizabeth Magistrates Court and ordered to pay a fine and more than \$6,000 in compensation to the consumer.

Paul Shaw of Eden Valley pleaded guilty to one count of carrying on business without a licence under the *Building Work Contractor's Act 1995*.

Shaw was prosecuted following investigation by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) into a consumer complaint about tiling work that required a complete overhaul.

Acting Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Anne Gale said "Shaw's tiling work was unprofessional, substandard and needed to be completely redone. It was a renovation nightmare."

Shaw was contracted to tile most of the consumer's house, including the hallway, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, laundry and toilet.

The consumer was unaware that Shaw was unlicensed and noticed within weeks of completion of the work that tiles were cracking and lifting from the floor.

Magistrate Iuliano SM found Shaw guilty, fining him \$2000 plus court costs and recorded a conviction.

As the consumer was not in a position to seek recompense for herself, Magistrate Iuliano ordered Shaw to pay \$6444 in compensation to the consumer so that the work could be rectified.

"This is a good outcome, but it must serve as a warning to consumers to make sure they know who they are dealing with when contracting for building work," the Acting Commissioner said.

To check whether a person is appropriately licensed or to find a licensed tradesperson in their local area consumers can visit the Licensing Public Register at [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au)

To report concerns about unlicensed tradespersons consumers can contact OCBA on (08) 8204 9777, or 131 882 for regional callers.