

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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The proof is in the advertisements

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mal Hemmerling, is putting unlicensed builders on notice that they will be found out. Their advertising often gives the game away.

This warning follows the successful court outcome against Domenic Cianfrone who was convicted and fined \$6,000 for unlicensed building activity.

Cianfrone placed 40 advertisements in Messenger newspapers over an 8 month period, providing evidence of his unlicensed activity. Cianfrone also contracted for and performed concreting work that was not up to scratch and had to be remedied.

The Commissioner said, "Staff at the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs regularly monitor advertisements from a variety of sources including press ads, phone book entries and promotional flyers. These checks often reveal builders and tradespeople who are touting for work without holding the appropriate licence."

In addition to monitoring activities, OCBA also investigates many reports each year from members of the public who have come across unlicensed tradespeople.

"Unfortunately unlicensed activity has become more prevalent in recent years given the high demand for tradespeople. OCBA has stepped up its enforcement activities to counter this illegal activity."

"If tradespeople want to work in this vibrant industry, then they need to go about it the right way. If they can prove that they meet the licensing criteria then they can be granted a licence so they can trade legally."

"The licensing system exists to protect consumers from unsafe and inadequate work and poor business practices."

"I urge all consumers to check the Licensing Public Register before engaging anyone to do any building or trades work. It only takes a few minutes to verify someone's licence details over the phone or by visiting OCBA's website, and it is essential for their own safety and protection."

To check the Licensing Public Register visit www.ocba.sa.gov.au or phone 8204 9644.