

Media Release

Saturday, 16 February 2013

DOB IN A DODGY TRADIE

In its ongoing push to stamp out dodgy and illegal practices among trade services, Consumer and Business Services (CBS) is holding a “Dob in a Dodgy Tradie” day next month.

Commissioner for Consumer and Business Services Paul White says his department wants to hear about any unlicensed tradies or questionable activities.

“Tradespeople who contract for work without the appropriate licence are breaking the law and their work is often substandard, leaving hefty repair bills.

“We hear many stories of consumers who’ve had to shell out money to have substandard or even unsafe work fixed as a result of hiring an unlicensed tradesperson.”

“We are keen to hear from consumers or industry members who are aware of unlicensed tradespeople contracting for work, including plumbers, gas fitters, electricians, and various building trades such as tiling and landscaping.

“We are continuously targeting unlicensed tradespeople with increased monitoring and an education campaign.

“In 2012, CBS issued 236 warning letters relating to alleged unlicensed activity, 7 tradespeople were convicted or disciplined and 9 assurances were given.

“Rogue operators caught as a result of the phone-in could face penalties of up to \$20,000 under the relevant industry legislation.”

Local newspapers have agreed to reinforce the requirement of traders who advertise to include licence numbers on their advertisements.

CBS is constantly vigilant for unlicensed traders, including:

- reviewing building development approvals and reports of unlicensed activity from Councils;
- conducting media monitoring, internet and electronic phone book searches;
- liaising with various industry bodies such as the Master Builders Association, Housing Industry Association and plumbing associations to educate tradespeople; and
- assessing information and complaints received by the general public.

To report an unlicensed tradesperson call CBS’s licensing compliance team between 9am and 5pm on March 19 on 131 882.

To check if someone is licensed consumers can visit CBS’s Licensing Public Register at www.cbs.sa.gov.au/licensing.

