

Minister Gail Gago

Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills
Minister for Science and Information Economy
Minister for the Status of Women
Minister for Business Services and Consumers

Tuesday, 24 March, 2015

Shonky operators identified in Dob in a Dodgy Tradie Day

South Australia's consumer watchdog received more than 50 phone calls during last week's campaign aimed to stamp out dodgy and illegal practices among trade services.

Business Services and Consumers Minister Gail Gago said Dob in a Dodgy Tradie Day helped identify shonky operators in the building industry who are trading without a license or performing substandard work.

There were 53 calls received during the one-day campaign last Friday.

- 21 calls related to concerns about licensed tradespeople and their poor workmanship
- The majority of these calls related to bathroom and kitchen alterations, paving, fencing and landscaping trades
- 19 calls related to allegations of builders trading unlicensed.

"CBS has enough evidence to investigate at least seven of these unlicensed matters. This figure may increase when CBS makes further contact with 12 of the callers in order to obtain additional evidence," Ms Gago said.

"CBS investigators will examine each of the matters in detail, and closely assess a range of evidence to catch businesses that are trading illegally."

"This includes reviewing contracts, quotes, business cards, websites, and advertisements – both newspapers and online, including sites such as Gumtree.

"A handful of calls were also received about unlicensed second-hand vehicle dealings and matters where CBS are already investigating or are in the process of investigating further.

"I urge anybody who is interested in getting work completed around their home to use licensed and reputable tradespeople," Ms Gago said.

"The risks of using an unlicensed tradesperson can be significant. Ensure you do some research before engaging a tradesperson. You can check if they are licensed to complete the work by using the CBS online licensing register."

For more information about your rights or to report a suspected trader, contact CBS on 131 882 or visit www.cbs.sa.gov.au