



News Release

DIANE BEAMER

**MINISTER FOR FAIR TRADING, MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR COMMERCE
MEMBER FOR MULGOA**

4th Oct 06

WARNING ON UNLICENSED HOME BUILDERS

Fair Trading Minister, Diane Beamer, says the recent heavy fine handed out to an unlicensed builder should serve as a warning to both builders and home owners.

George Hadchity was fined \$19,103 in Parramatta Local Court for nine breaches of the Home Building Act.

Mr Hadchity had undertaken major construction works for two home owners in Hebersham and Minchinbury without a licence and without providing home warranty insurance.

“Mr Hadchity offered to undertake major residential building work for which he was not qualified,” Ms Beamer said.

“He misrepresented himself in one instance, claiming he had the relevant licences. But the only licence he holds is for minor building maintenance and non-structural work.”

In addition, Mr Hadchity did not give the consumers a certificate of insurance in relation to the work he was undertaking - another breach of the legislation.

Mr Hadchity also accepted deposits, which he was not legally entitled to, because he had not provided them with their certificates of insurance.

“Fines of this size should remind unlawful builders that Fair Trading treats breaches of the Act very seriously and will continue to prosecute them in the courts,” Ms Beamer said.

“In both these cases, Mr Hadchity did not fulfil his obligations, leaving two families out of pocket and with incomplete renovations. In one case, the family had to set up a temporary outdoor shower.

“This should also be a warning to home owners to do their homework before entering any building contract and make sure the builder has the correct licence.

“If the building work is worth over \$12,000, do not pay them any deposit until you have a copy of your home warranty insurance certificate.

Advice is available at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au , any Fair Trading Centre or by calling 13 3220.

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