

**Question on Notice
No. 702
Asked on 12 May 2011**

MS MALE asked the Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology (MR FINN)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise of the valuable work undertaken by the Building Services Authority to protect consumers against unlicensed contractors operating in the community?

ANSWER:

The Building Services Authority (BSA) carries out a range of activities to protect consumers against unlicensed contractors.

The BSA undertakes audits on unlicensed contracting twice a year. This involves visiting building sites and interviewing all persons performing building work to ensure that they are appropriately licensed. In 2011, additional compliance audits have been carried out in disaster recovery areas where building repairs and renovations are underway.

As the regulatory body that licenses contractors, the BSA has a 'no tolerance' approach to unlicensed contractors.

The regulation of advertising by unlicensed persons was introduced on 21 December 2007. Unlicensed contractors are required to state in any advertisement the maximum value of work they can perform without a licence. This regulatory requirement is the BSA's most effective tool in combating unfair competition by unlicensed contractors.

The BSA also conducts an intensive program of consumer education on the risks of contracting with unlicensed contractors. Consumer seminars are held once a month at the BSA's Head Office in Brisbane; upon request in various electorates in south east Queensland; and, depending on demand, in the regions in conjunction with trade-specific seminars for contractors.

Some of the topics that are discussed during the seminars include:

- Choosing a contractor
- Your rights under the *Domestic Building Contracts Act 2000*
- Financing your project.