

Media Release

For immediate release

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\$10,000 fine and cancellation of registration for non-compliant building work

A man has had his builder's registration cancelled and received a \$10,000 fine following an investigation by the Victorian Building Authority (VBA).

Four allegations were found proven against Mr Andrew Renn in relation to the construction of a timber deck, pergola, carport and associated landscaping at a property in Hawthorn. The job was quoted at \$120,000, which was agreed upon by the homeowners. Once the quote was accepted, Mr Renn requested a 50 per cent deposit to begin works. Legally, he was only permitted to request a five per cent deposit.

After numerous requests for additional payments and issues with the progress of works, the homeowners arranged an inspection which found that Mr Renn had completed less than half of the contracted work. This led to an investigation into Mr Renn's conduct by the VBA.

The allegations against Mr Renn were that he:

- failed to include required details in the contract
- demanded and received a deposit of more than five per cent when the contract price was more than \$20,000
- demanded and received a payment not directly related to the progress of the building work being carried out
- failed to carry out his work in a competent manner and to a professional standard in that the building work was not carried out in a timely manner and was abandoned prior to completion.

The VBA referred the matter to the Building Practitioners Board (BPB) for an inquiry into Mr Renn's conduct. The BPB found the four allegations proven. Mr Renn was fined \$10,000, ordered to pay costs of \$1058 and had his registration as a Domestic Builder – Limited cancelled.

The VBA's Director of Compliance and Performance, Kate Despot, said that consumers can visit the VBA website to check if their building practitioner is registered and has been subject to any disciplinary action.

For further information and to view the Practitioner Disciplinary Register, visit www.vba.vic.gov.au

ENDS

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