

Business licensing reform inquiry

Response ID:16 Data

1.

1. Your contact details

First name

Daniel

Last name

Shuttleworth

Organisation (if responding on behalf of an organisation)

3. Please indicate who you represent:

Consumer

4. Which business or occupational licence(s) do you hold or are you affected by?

I work as a Cost Planner/Estimator within the construction industry. I completed 9 years of work in WA before moving to QLD. I am affected not only in my personal life but my working life.

Plastering and a Builder has affected my personal life, in both emotionally and financially.

5. How do these business or occupational licences affect you and what suggestions do you have to improve them?

Quality...

I see on a daily basis the decline of quality within the trades. This decline is due to the lack of skills or suitably qualified trades people. There is a massive skills shortage and unfortunately Labourers (if you can call them that) are performing the duties of what only should be performed by skilled trades people.

This is due to the lack of regulation. The thing I most respect about QLD is the Queensland Building and Construction Commission enforces licencing. All trades have to have a licence with the QBCC. The supervisors even have to have licence. Majority of supervisors do not know a thing about quality, nor do they care. But if they were held personally liable like QLD then maybe they would care.

Painters are the only registered trade. There should be regulation and accountability through the industry. In WA I am a victim of a dodgy builder who was able to go into liquidation and start up again. He also used unskilled labour to undertake plastering. I had 14 window frames damaged by them as a result of banging their trowels on the window frames. The industry needs a shake up and a licencing of all trades to ensure accountability.

6. Are there aspects of the business and occupational licensing arrangements that affect you that are working well?

Registered Painters is a great move.

Registered Builders leave a lot to be desired. They put a ticket on their company and never view the works. The unskilled supervisor runs the job from start to finish.

7. Do you have any other comments?

Try to adopt QLD's policy.

The QBCC supports the growing Queensland community by providing information, advice and regulation to ensure the maintenance of proper building standards and remedies for defective building work. By doing this we promote confidence in the building and construction industry. Led by the Commissioner and governed by a board, the QBCC consists of a skilled and expert team of staff that work hard to meet the needs of industry participants and the community.

The following was an extract from The Courier Times Newspaper:

The QBCC is supported by Housing Minister Mick de Brenni, who wants to give the body even greater powers to tackle dodgy builders in a bid to protect subcontractors and homeowners.

"If a mum and dad chooses to build their own home it's the biggest investment of their life and they deserve the protection of a strong watchdog who will support them if sadly they find they are dealing with a dodgy builder," Mr de Brenni said.

WA is lagging behind and by not acting now, the situation is only getting worse. I would never build in WA again, with a toothless tiger of a regulator/industry watchdog. The WA Building Commission has let me and my partner down. They do not carry out site inspection only desk top inspections. They turn their back on reports and expert comments. Most of all they protect dodgy builders.