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Industry News

Fair Trading Complaints Register



NSW Fair Trading has announced the launch of a new complaints register on its website, which will be published from August 2016.

Any business trading in NSW (including strata) with more than 10 complaints in a month will be listed on a public register. Fair Trading states that this action is aimed at encouraging businesses to provide better customer service and enable consumers to make informed decisions on businesses they might wish to engage.

To ensure against vexatious claims, Fair Trading says that complainants must be a real person with business dealings with the business in question and have been subject to Fair Trading intervention. Currently Fair Trading receives over 45,000 complaints each year.

To find out more and to read the complaints register guidelines, click [here](#).

2016/17 Strata Services Directory

Advertising Closing Soon: 24 March



Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to advertise your products and services to the strata industry in the **2016/17 SCA (NSW) Strata Services Directory**.

Advertising Prices

Full page adverts: \$1,590.00

Half page adverts: \$960.00

Advertising Package Deals

Book 1 full page and 1 half page for \$2,550.00

Book 2 half pages for \$1,440.00

Strata Reforms Delayed



The public release of the draft Regulations (Development and Management) along with a regulatory impact statement is anticipated to occur around the end of March or early April.

The public will then be given four weeks to have their say. SCA (NSW) intends to review the Regulations and submit its comments to the government. We will call on members to provide feedback to us, which will be co-ordinated into our response.

We are advised that the NSW Government will review the public submissions before producing the final regulations. We understand there will be a three to four month lead time from when the regulations are published to when the laws take effect, which is approximately the 1st November.

Loose Fill Asbestos



The NSW Government is providing free ceiling insulation testing to owners of pre-1980s residential premises in [28 identified NSW local government areas](#).

Outside these identified areas the testing costs range from \$200 to \$400 but this is refunded if the results come back positive.

Where results do come back positive for asbestos,

Book 3 half pages for \$1,920.00

Advertising closing: COB 24th March.

To advertise please [click here](#) for booking form.

Any further enquiries contact us at: advertising.nsw@stratacommunity.org.au

City of Sydney Corrects Error



In late 2015, owners corporations within the City of Sydney local government area (LGA) received a letter from the council advising them they could be eligible to be included on the Non-Residential and Business Register. Inclusion on the Register provides an entitlement to vote in local council elections.

SCA (NSW) questioned the accuracy of this with its professional legal members and received advice that this was not correct. Council was contacted and it confirmed that it had made an error sending this out to not only owners corporations but also to owners of car spaces and owners of utility lots (storage spaces) within the LGA.

Owners corporations are excluded from this entitlement in accordance with the provisions of the *Corporations Act* (Cth) 2001.

Council has written to SCA (NSW) confirming the error. You can read the full letter [here](#).

Better Resolution of Building Defect Claims



There may be a way to avoid lengthy and costly litigation and focus on what matters - the rectification of building defects.

To find out more, click [here](#) to read the full article by Bannermans Lawyers on Better Resolution of Building

owners have three options:

1 - Sell the property to the government at the average price of two valuations

2 - Demolish the property

3 - Remain living in the property which is then listed on the public register.

The Loose-fill Asbestos Implementation Taskforce is holding public events and information sessions in identified local government areas.

Information is available online [here](#).

There is an assistance program for owners and tenants which you can find [here](#).

And you can [register online for the free testing program](#) up until **1st August 2016** or call Service NSW on [13 77 88](#) for more information.

Proposed amendments to Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Regulations | Have your say

A number of regulatory amendments have been prepared to enable the establishment of the public register of residential properties known to contain loose-fill asbestos insulation and to disclose this information to prospective tenants and home buyers.

The proposed regulatory amendments are now available on the Fair Trading website.

Click [here](#) to have your say.

Please note that comments close on **15 April 2016**.

Defect Claims.

Swimming Pools



The Office of Local Government has reminded SCA (NSW) that the legislation regarding Swimming Pool Certification takes effect from **29 April 2016**.

We have however been advised that strata and community title schemes will be exempt for where there are more than two lots.

We have been advised that more information will be forwarded to us and we will update members as soon as possible. In the meantime we encourage you to read the latest media release on these changes [here](#).

Upcoming Events

SCA (NSW) Strata Owners Day | Saturday 30 April 2016



Strata Managers, please alert your strata owners and encourage them to click on the button below to register.

SCA (NSW) is hosting its inaugural **Strata Owners Day** on the **30th April 2016** at the **Sydney Masonic Centre**.

We will be covering topics such as:

- Legislation
- Green building
- Adding value & keeping costs down
- Dispute resolution

Speakers include:

- [Stratalive's](#) Cindy Martin
- NSW Department of Fair Trading
- [Flat Chat](#) columnist Jimmy Thomson

Date: Saturday 30 April

Time: 8.30am to 4.30pm

Venue: Sydney Masonic Centre, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney

Price: \$66 for strata owner chapter members

\$80 for non-members

Registration fee includes full access to all sessions, exhibition area, event bag, trade passport draw, lunch and coffee breaks.

REGISTER NOW

Strata Services and Suppliers, to learn how you can get involved download the Strata Owners Day prospectus [here](#).

For any enquiries email us at events.nsw@stratacommunity.org.au

SCA (NSW) Golf Day | 13 May 2016

Save the Date



Dust off your golf clubs and block your calendar for the annual **SCA (NSW) Golf Day** on **Friday 13 May 2016!**

This year the Golf Day will be held at an exciting new location, [Moore Park Golf Club](#).

From keen golfers to those who would like to refresh their skills the **SCA (NSW) Golf Day** is a great day of fun and networking for all.

A sponsorship prospectus will be made available in early April.

For any enquiries email us at events.nsw@stratacommunity.org.au

Upcoming Education

CPD Roadshow | Thursday 14 April



It is essential that today's strata manager has knowledge of the relevant legislation as this will equip you with increased authority when giving guidance and recommendations to your clients.

The new CPD topic is 'Risk Management' and will cover the below areas:

-Window Safety Devices

-Swimming Pools

-Fire Safety

-Asbestos

-Amendments to the Home Building Act

Date: Thursday 14 April

Location: Kirribilli Club, 11 Harbourview Crescent, Lavender Bay, 2060

Cost: The session is worth a full 12 CPD points and is free for members (Licensed and Associate Chapter) and \$395.00 for non members.

To view the 2016 CPD roadshow calendar please click [here](#).

To register: Email us at education.nsw@stratacommunity.org.au.

For more course information please click [here](#).

Certificate of Registration | 19-22 April



Have you considered a career in strata?

To enter the industry as a strata manager you will need to complete three units of competency from the **CPP30311 Certificate III Property Services (Operations)**. This course is conducted over 4 days and is delivered in partnership with Real Estate Training Solutions.

Dates: Tuesday 19 - Friday 22 April 2016

Location: SCA (NSW) Training Room, Level 1, 845 Pacific Highway, Chatswood

Cost: \$990.00 (GST free)

To register: Please email education.nsw@stratacommunity.org.au or phone (02) 9492 8200.

For more course information please click [here](#).

Strata Services Specialist Course



STRATA SERVICES
SPECIALIST
COMPANY



STRATA SERVICES
SPECIALIST
INDIVIDUAL

This course is the **last chance** to meet the requirements for company specialisation in order to include the **Strata Services Company Specialist logo** next to your company listing in the **2016/17 Strata Services Directory**.

Cert IV in Property Services | 11-13 April



The Certificate IV in Property Services (Operation) course is designed for those who want to further their career in strata management as a **licensed strata manager**. This course will be delivered in partnership with Real Estate Training Solutions.

Dates: Monday 11 to Wednesday 13 April 2016

Location: SCA (NSW) Training Room, Level 1, 845 Pacific Highway, Chatswood

Cost: Mixed Mode (combination of face to face and correspondence) \$3250.00 (GST free)

Cost: Correspondence Mode \$2500.00 (GST free)

To register: Please email education.nsw@stratacommunity.org.au or phone (02) 9492 8200

For more course information please click [here](#).

Please click [here](#) for the Company Specialist requirements.

Date: Wednesday 23 March 2016

Location: SCA (NSW) training room, Level 1, 845 Pacific Highway, Chatswood

Cost: \$150.00 inc GST (member and non member price) *payable prior to attendance*.

Morning Session Times: (*New attendees only*) - Registration from 8.15am and finishes 1.45pm. **FULLY BOOKED**

Afternoon Session Times: (*Renewal attendees only*) - Registration from 1.45pm and finishes 4.15pm.

To register please email membership.nsw@stratacommunity.org.au.

For more course information please click [here](#).

WE THANK OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS

