

Media Release



Friday, 8 February 2013

Owners corporation managers working towards higher standards

Strata Community Australia (SCA) Victoria today said that the poor work standards of a few owners corporation managers should be considered the exception and not the rule. This follows media reports that a few managers had allegedly engaged in highly unethical and illegal practices.

SCA (Vic) General Manager, Rob Beck, said that the managers in question were either no longer members of SCA (Vic) or never had been.

“SCA (Vic) is firmly committed to the highest professional standards, welcome the removal of unethical behavior in our industry, and will work with the regulators to ensure this occurs,” he said.

“SCA (Vic) members are required to meet very strict ethical standards and to undertake ongoing professional development. However, we are continually improving our education offering and will use this latest incident to review our standards and training.”

Mr Beck said that SCA had recently launched a national accreditation program.

“The introduction of SCA accreditation is both a move towards providing consumers with the assurance their owners corporation manager’s qualifications suits their needs as well as providing an opportunity for the strata sector to gain professional recognition,” Mr Beck said.

Owners corporation managers wishing to participate need to be members of their respective SCA state organisation and undertake additional training or submit evidence of their competency. SCA members must also submit to a code of ethics.

The new accreditation levels for strata managers are designed to give consumers the confidence that the strata manager they choose to manage their properties is the right person for the job.

“Consumers are demanding that their managers have some level of accreditation so they have peace of mind in knowing the person managing their most precious asset is qualified to do so,” Mr Beck explained.

“We will continue to work with both members and regulators to improve educational and ethical standards and to that end also call on the regulators to improve educational and risk-based enforcement activity at their end.”

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About Strata Community Australia

Strata Community Australia is the new peak body for the strata sector. It brings together the former National Community Titles Institute, Institute of Strata Title Management (NSW), Community Titles Institute of Queensland, Owners Corporations Victoria, Community Titles Institute of South Australia, Strata Titles Institute of Western Australia and Strata Management Institute of the Australian Capital Territory under the one name with a new constitution and governance structure. Collectively there are 2500 individual and business members including strata managers, other specialist service providers and individual owners and investors. Unlike most industry bodies, the common denominator is the customer base - Australia's 270,000 body corporates, owners corporations, strata companies etc - rather than specific product or service categories. This makes SCA a powerful advocate both for its direct membership and the one-quarter of Australians households who live in apartments and townhouses.

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