

Greetings All,

When *Darryl Kerrigan* and his neighbours decided to fight the injustice of inappropriate property development in the famous Australian movie "The Castle", their eventual success in the High Court only occurs once they engaged the assistance of *Lawrence Hammill QC*. Anyone who has been through our legal system knows the high cost of good lawyers and can recognise that sometimes good old '*Dennis Denuto*' isn't the right man for the job.



Being experienced and competent at the career we all end up doing takes time. There is only so much experience that one can embrace from looking up things on the internet and reading books.

Sooner or later, real life experience is needed to allow all of us to figure out if we are up for the task at hand. Standing on the top of a tower crane as a rigger probably isn't a great idea for a career for somebody that isn't comfortable at heights.

I recently heard a story from a very reliable source with regards to the level of hands on experience that is found on some sites here in Australia. During a CraneSafe inspection, the very experienced assessor was provided with an Advanced Rigger to assist with the Green Sticker assessment. As one would expect, there is a certain level of presumption that can be made on the experience of someone who is "Advanced". When the assessor asked our super rigger to tie a bowline onto a jib section as a tag line, it seems our RA wasn't able to do so. Now if that isn't a concern for our industry, I'm not sure what is!



One of our members recently raised a valid concern with the increase in his general hire customers not requiring dogmen or riggers to accompany cranes. For some time there has been a growing trend for customers providing their own dogmen for tasks such as lifting roofing sheets onto new factories or erecting timber trusses or steel on domestic building sites.

If roof plumbers or carpenters are being used as dogmen on the jobs your cranes are being sent to, are their credentials being checked? Do they actually have High Risk Work Licences?



Our member who raised the question asked a simple question - What are the legal repercussions of using somebody who may have a ticket, but perhaps doesn't have the necessary experience required if something goes wrong? Whose insurance company will be called in if there is an incident? The Crane Operator may be working in the blind and have no ability to see how a load is slung until it comes up and over the roof – and that might be too late to place the load down safely before something falls off.



Perhaps the only way the question can be answered clearly is by *Darryl Kerrigan's* legal counsel – Let's hope it never gets to that point.

Cheers for now and have a safe week!

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