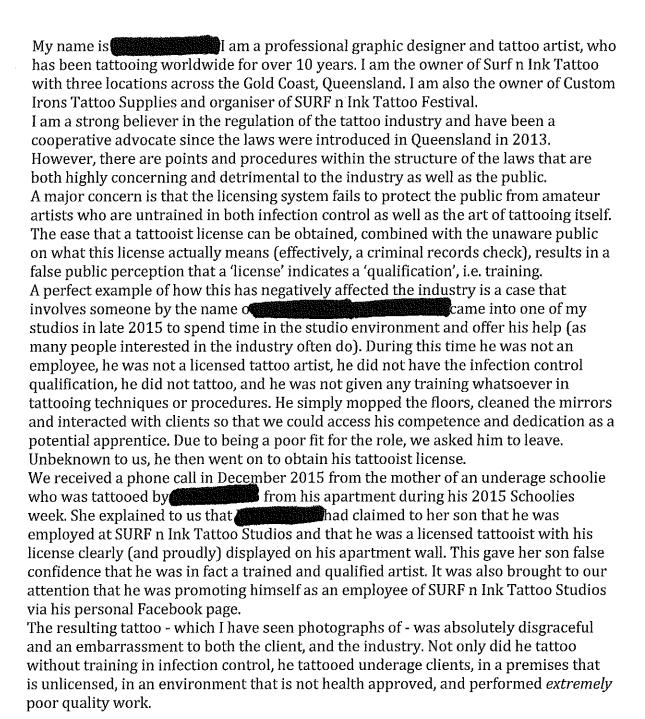
Surf n Ink Tattoo Gold Coast Brisbane, QLD

18 Feb 2016



These situations put our reputation at risk as a studio, but public safety is clearly compromised. The ones who suffer the most in these common situations are the innocent clients that are so easily fooled by an official government documentation claiming a person is a "Licensed Tattooist", causing them to believe that person is actually "competent" in tattooing, rather than simply that they have a clear criminal record. The clients are left with both physical scars as well as mental ramifications to deal with, on top of the very real and likely possibility of putting their health in jeopardy.

This case (and there are many similar), highlights a major issue that our industry faces and that the licensing system, instead of working to assist the issue, actually contributes to the problem.

As a starting point, we might propose at minimum the change of the name from "Tattooist License" to "Criminal Records Check" (or the like) so that it can be much clearer and easily understood by the public.

We understand that this law has no intention to regulate the quality or performance of work completed within the industry, however, we urge government officials to take this seriously and exercise duty of care in the interest of public safety.

