

16 August 2015

Over 70 potential leaky building claimants are exploring eligibility for the Cladding Action against James Hardie ahead of December deadline

Over 70 property owners are being progressed as potential claimants in the Cladding Action against cladding manufacturer, James Hardie, four days after specialist litigation law firm and leaky building experts, Parker & Associates, announced it had filed the first claim and said it was forming a group to bring a class action or test case.

The first claim was filed in the High Court last week on behalf of homeowners Tracey Cridge and Mark Unwin who face \$250,000 of repairs and other costs.

The claim alleges James Hardie was negligent in its design, manufacture and supply of the Harditex cladding system.

"There has been a very positive response to the Cladding Action which demonstrates that there is a real need out there," said Dan Parker, partner at Parker & Associates. "Momentum is building fast and we are confident that enquiries and interest will continue to grow.

"We also had an excellent turn out of interested property owners - some from multi-unit buildings, lawyers and surveyors at a seminar in Tauranga last Wednesday. We will likely hold similar seminars in other centres," said Mr Parker.

Parker & Associates is responding to enquiries as soon as they come in and getting underway with the free initial 'desktop' assessment. They are then working with owners to see what next steps of investigation are needed. One hour of free firm time is being offered to do these initial assessments for the first 500 enquiries. Assessments are subject to investigation as required by building experts.

"We urge property owners who think they might be affected to move quickly and explore their eligibility for a claim before a December cut-off," said Mr Parker.

December is when there will be a bar on claims based on acts or omissions that occurred more than 15 years ago. Many of the alleged negligent acts in question and affected properties date back to the 1990s.

"To join the Cladding Action property owners need to establish if Harditex was used at their property, whether defects exist and the nature of those defects, whether damage has been caused and why," said Mr Parker. "Property owners are often unaware of potential problems until after expert investigation."

James Hardie has denied any fault or failings with their product and indicated that they will be 'vigorously defending' the claim

Interested potential claimants can obtain further information by registering interest with Parker & Associates at 05084Parker or ph: 04 499 0390, www.parkerandassociates.co.nz or email info@parkerandassociates.co.nz, or like us on Facebook/[parkerandassoc](https://www.facebook.com/parkerandassoc)