

FACT SHEET: Safety of Awnings Over Public Land

Awnings located over public land (e.g. footpaths) are the responsibility of the owner of the building. Camden Council seeks to ensure that users of footpaths within the Camden Local Government Area are protected from injury that may result from structural failure of these structures.

If you own a building where an awning is located over public land, It is important that you are aware of the following:

- Your responsibilities regarding awnings overs public land and the potential safety issues involved;
- The need to maintain awnings adequately;
- The importance of having your awnings inspected by a professional engineer for structural adequacy to ensure safety; and
- Considering whether you should seek legal advice on the potential liability for any failure or collapse of an awning.

Inspections are recommended as it is possible that an awning may appear to be in good condition from the outside; however, its interior or supports may have become structurally unsound. This may be due to rust or corrosion, which could cause a failure in the awning.

Camden Council wish to bring your attention to the potential safety issues relating to awnings over public land. This will be done by:

- Identifying owners of buildings with awnings over public land;
- Notifying owners of their responsibility to keep awnings in good order; and
- Advising owners to seek legal advice about their liability in the event of failure or collapse of their awnings.

Awning owners should reference the Safe Work Australia publication entitled “**Managing the Risk of Falls at Workplaces**” prior to undertaking any work at height in association with maintenance or awning inspections. You can also obtain further safety advice by contacting WorkCover direct on 13 10 50.