

## Bell Potter fined \$125,000 for rogue trader

Eric Johnston  
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THE brokerage Bell Potter has been hit with a \$125,000 fine after one of its traders was found to have been trading shares without approval from a client and failing to disclose trading on his own account.

The ASX's disciplinary tribunal found the unnamed Bell Potter broker had made more than 430 share trades over a four-year period on behalf of two unnamed companies, but failed to disclose he was in fact the ultimate owner of the companies.

It also found the same trader had made a \$37,000 trade in Quest Petroleum in April 2009 without the instructions of the client.

The ASX said the adviser, during an interview over the trades, made representations that were "incomplete, inaccurate and misleading" concerning his association with the companies.

Bell Potter's compliance staff eventually found that the trading was taking place on behalf of a staff member and reported the breach to the ASX.

The findings of its market disciplinary review panel said the adviser engaged in conduct that failed to understand and practise "honesty and fair dealing".

The misconduct had the potential to damage the reputation and integrity of the ASX and the market and facilities it operates, the tribunal said.

The broker continues to be employed by Bell Potter but operates under strict conditions, the ASX said.

So far this year the ASX has fined six brokerages a total of \$470,000.

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*This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/bell-potter-fined-125000-for-rogue-trader-20110328-1cdc7.html>*

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