

\$320,000 fine for company

Kate Jones

A CONSTRUCTION company and its director have been fined \$320,000 over the death of a worker crushed by a 14-tonne concrete slab.

Christos Binos, 58, died on March 8, 2006 at a Pakenham building site when the concrete tilt panel fell on him.

The grandfather of four was months away from retirement.

County Court Judge Phillip Coish fined R&M Mascitti Developments \$250,000 and sole director Robert Mascitti \$70,000.

Judge Coish said while the actions of Mr Mascitti and the company were not responsible for Mr Binos' death, they had both failed to provide safe working environments for employees.

"I am of the opinion that the actions and breaches of the Occupational Health and Safety act by both R&M Mascitti Developments and Robert Mascitti were very serious indeed," he said.

The company pleaded guilty to three counts of failing to provide a safe working environment and Mr Mascitti pleaded guilty to failing to provide and maintain a workplace without risks to health and safety.

The court heard the company was now inactive and had no employees.