

MEDIA RELEASE

Acting Commissioner for Consumer Affairs

28 October 2008

Irish Gypsies leave town – leaving behind dangerous generators

Consumer Affairs are warning people not to use potentially dangerous generators which were sold by a group of roaming Irish Gypsies in Darwin last week.

Consumer Affairs, Immigration and Police worked together to confront the group of 50 gypsies about their activities. As a result they have left the Territory and are now headed for Sydney. Consumer Affairs have alerted their interstate colleagues of the movements of the itinerant sellers.

“This was a fairly well organised group,” Acting Commissioner for Consumer Affairs Gary Clements said. “They have been moving throughout the states, including Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.”

The model, the Hondamann generator, does not meet Australian Standards and would not pass comprehensive testing.

The generators displayed two rating labels, one stating the maximum output was 4KW and the other hidden underneath displaying 2KW. The hidden label was correct.

“These generators are potentially dangerous as 240 volts could appear on the 12 volt battery terminals, posing a possible electrocution risk,” Mr Clements said.

“We recommend that consumers do not use these generators.”

A number of generators were sold to Territorians. They were sold from the back of hire cars for as little as two for \$500.

“Consumers should always be careful when dealing with itinerant traders as they have little opportunity to seek repairs or refunds should things go wrong,” Mr Clements said.

“Consumer Affairs is interested in hearing from anyone who has concerns about the activities of itinerant traders in the Northern Territory.”

Consumers are advised to contact Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319.

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Generator on display at the Office of Consumer Affairs

(See attached photo of generator)