



# Northern Territory Government

Department of Justice

## MEDIA RELEASE

April 2002

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### **RICHARD O'SULLIVAN** Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

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#### **BOGUS ADVERTISING INVOICES**

Territory business operators are being urged to avoid paying a bogus advertising invoice currently being distributed across the Territory.

The invoice, for approximately \$995US, is from a Swiss-based group called *IT & T* International Business Directories.

The invoice seeks payment for a company's business name being advertised in a supposed international facsimile directory.

"\$995US is nearly \$2000 AUD so any business advertising their facsimile number at that cost would want to be sure of obtaining some clientele from the directory," Commissioner Gary Clements said today.

"Further, there is no evidence this directory is ever published which makes this invoice scheme a straight-forward scam.

"I encourage all businesses receiving an *IT & T* invoice to avoid paying it. Bogus invoices should be forwarded to any Consumer Affairs office through PO Box 1722 Darwin."

Mr Clements said vigilance was the best policy when it came to processing invoices.

"Our agency suspects *IT & T* has simply obtained the postal addresses of hundreds of NT businesses and is mass producing bogus invoices in the hope of getting paid.

"*IT & T* even sent an invoice to Consumer Affairs for payment."

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