



MEDIA RELEASE

1 August 2002

RICHARD O'SULLIVAN Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

CONSUMER AFFAIRS SUSPENDS LOCAL MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER'S LICENCE

The Commissioner of Consumer Affairs is suspending the Motor Vehicle Dealer's Licence of Fair Deal Autos for 5 days, from 12 August 2002.

Mr O'Sullivan said that Consumer Affairs is toughening its stance in protecting consumers' interests with regards to the sale of motor vehicles.

He added that he is aware of consumer detriment suffered in instances of unlicensed or unfair trading.

"This was the first time that an NT Motor Vehicle Dealer's licence has been suspended" he said.

The suspension follows an inquiry into the licensed trader's dealings, which revealed serious infringements and breaches of the *Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act* (NT). These infringements and breaches included selling vehicles with interstate registration, displaying vehicles with interstate plates, selling unroadworthy vehicles and failing to maintain the vehicle dealings register in accordance with the Act, by not recording details of odometer readings.

The Commissioner said "Other traders are now on notice.

Consumer Affairs are investigating a number of cases around the Northern Territory, especially in the area of unlicensed dealings".

"This action should remind traders of their responsibilities and conditions of their licence under the *Act*, and send a clear message to anyone caught breaching the *Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act* that there will be no hesitation in applying the full weight of the law, especially where consumer's interests are compromised" he said.