



MEDIA RELEASE

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RICHARD O’SULLIVAN Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

RECONDITIONED LAWN MOWERS

The Office of Consumer Affairs has uncovered a rip off involving reconditioned lawn mowers.

The scam is being operated by at least two people, mostly in Darwin’s northern suburbs.

The newspaper advertisements offer reconditioned lawn mowers for sale at prices between \$180 and \$220. The price includes a 30-day warranty and seven- day “changeover” should the mower need repairs. The advertiser also insists on delivering the mower free of charge.

Commissioner Richard O’Sullivan said several cases had now been reported to Consumer Affairs from Territorians being ripped off by the scheme.

“The mowers are delivered to the purchaser yet, in a short time frame, require maintenance. The people behind this scam then collect the mower to supposedly undertake those repairs. Yet the consumer never sees the mower again.”

The Commissioner said when contacted again on the advertised number, the supposed lawn mower agent has either had the phone disconnected or the call continually goes to a message service.

“Those responsible face theft and fraud charges and we have notified NT Police of the details we have at hand,” he said.

“I urge Territorians to be very wary of dealing with any second-hand lawn mower agent who will not reveal their place of business and insists on delivering the mower.

“I encourage people to detail the vehicle registration number and ask for relevant phone and address contact details.”

Media Contact: Richard O’Sullivan 8999 5042