



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

May 2002

DR PETER TOYNE MLA Minister for Justice

MINISTER WARNS TERRITORIANS OVER DIRECTORY

Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne today issued an urgent warning to Territory businesses being targeted by a “directory assistance” scam.

The Minister said the Office of Consumer Affairs had been contacted by several businesses which have received a facsimile from *The Telephone Directory*.

“The Telephone Directory is nothing more than a scam trying to dupe businesses out of money,” he said.

“The facsimile states businesses can have their contact details listed in The Telephone Directory by simply completing the coupon and returning via facsimile.

“However, reply facsimiles are charged at \$5.50 per minute against your own business account and can take a considerable length of time to be transmitted.”

The Minister said Consumer Affairs was in contact with other States and Territory counterparts to determine the source of the facsimile.

“This type of scam is not illegal providing the business promoting itself provides the service it promises. However, the trick is that a business responding to the facsimile may find a substantial charge against their phone or facsimile account just to be registered with The Telephone Directory.

“I encourage all businesses approached to avoid becoming involved.”
Contact Consumer Affairs on 08 8999 1999.

Media Contact: Richard O’Sullivan 8999 5042