



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

3 May 2002

DR PETER TOYNE MLA Minister for Justice and Attorney General

MINISTER WARNS TERRITORIANS OVER 'COUNTRY DIRECT'

Justice Minister, Dr Peter Toyne, today warned Territorians to avoid posting mail orders to Country Direct, a company operating out of New South Wales.

"The Office of Consumer Affairs has received complaints from Territorians about Country Direct's promotion," he said.

"The business offers mail order purchases for around \$21.99 and promises home delivered Compact Discs featuring the latest songs.

"But that's where Country Direct's commitment appears to end. People are reporting they have sent their money, only to have the cheque cashed in Sydney and no goods delivered."

The Minister said attempts to contact Country Direct on their promotional line had also failed.

"It's timely to remind Territorians that interstate and international transactions carry a certain risk.

"In the case of Internet and mail order purchases, it is wise to check the company's credibility either with the NT Office of Consumer Affairs or the relevant office in their jurisdiction.

"We want Territorians to take precautions and avoid disappointment."

The Minister said the Office of Consumer Affairs operated seven days a week on 08 8999 1999 or via e mail consumer@nt.gov.au

Contact: Craig Rowston 89014015 or 0401 119 777 or Richard O'Sullivan, Consumer Affairs, 8999 5052