



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

1 August 2002

DR PETER TOYNE MLA Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTERS PROGRESS NATIONAL STRATEGIES

Australian and New Zealand Consumer Affairs Ministers will meet in Adelaide tomorrow for the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs (MCCA).

Minister for Justice and Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne said a number of issues on the agenda are relevant to the Territory, especially the move to include Indigenous consumer issues as a standing agenda item for future meetings.

"I welcome the push to continually monitor and discuss indigenous consumer issues across Australia and to compare strategies and education initiatives targeted at this audience," said Dr Toyne.

"More than 25 per cent of the Territory's population is indigenous so all indigenous consumer initiatives and issues are of particular relevance to the Territory.

Of further relevance to Indigenous consumer issues, Ministers will be considering matters raised at the National Workshop on Indigenous Consumer Issues in Remote and Rural Australia, held in Alice Springs in April this year.

The council will also consider progress on a Working Party established at the 2001 MCCA to look at cross-jurisdictional complaints and issues and to establish a national alerts and complaints system.

"I am also pleased the council will be discussing the progress of the national alerts and complaints system," said Dr Toyne.

"This system is a practical way to share information across jurisdictions and will prompt a national approach to enforcing consumer protection laws against traders whose activities are not confined to one jurisdiction," said Dr Toyne.

Dr Toyne said we have seen many examples of traders from other States perpetrating their scams here in the NT, such as high pressure and deceptive mobile phone sales and the soliciting of fees for listings in business directories, and a national alerts and complaints mechanism will streamline the handling and prosecution of such cases.

The meeting will be held on Friday 2 August in Adelaide.

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