



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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DR PETER TOYNE MLA Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

NEW CONSUMER AFFAIRS COUNCIL ANNOUNCED

Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne today announced new appointments to the advisory Consumer Affairs Council.

Dr Toyne said the new membership is broadly representative of the community and includes indigenous representation, which is particularly pertinent given the Territory's responsibility in leading Australia on indigenous consumer affairs issues.

“It is pleasing to have such a wide range of backgrounds and expertise relative to consumer issues represented on the new Consumer Affairs council.

“The new members bring a range of skills and experience including marketing and consumer behaviours, consumer legislation and corporate governance, indigenous consumer issues and motor trades consumer issues.

“Ensuring a strong representative council is one way the Government can support consumers to feel empowered in their day to day consumer activities.

“The Council will also be consulted in the consumer legislative initiatives currently being pursued such as the new code of practice for auctioneers, a new Agents Licensing Act, the disposal of uncollected goods, retail tenancies legislation, and vendor disclosure for real estate sales amongst others.

“The new Council is well placed to continue the work of retiring council members and given the new expertise in indigenous issues, will contribute significantly to the Territory's role in leading Australia on indigenous consumer affairs,’ Dr Toyne said.

The Council is tasked with advising the Minister on the interests of Territory consumers and can have a real hands-on role in the development of education programs and strategies on a range of consumer issues.

The Consumer Affairs Council is comprised of ten members with three former board members to be retained to ensure consistency and continuity of knowledge. The existing members to be retained are Ms Cheryl Kuhn (Chair), Ms Kezia Purick and Mr Mark Holecek.

The seven new Consumer Affairs Council members are:

Mr Graeme Bevis,

current Executive Director of the Motor Trades Association, with extensive experience in consumer issues relating to the motor trades industry

Mr Frank Procter,

an Indigenous Territorian with broad private industry and government experience and expertise in indigenous community development and culturally appropriate approaches

Mr Rajeev Sharma,

the Associate Dean of International Programmes and Marketing at the Northern Territory University with extensive experience of marketing and consumer behaviour

Ms Sue Shearer,

CEO of the Real Estate Institute of the NT with extensive experience in both public and private housing

Mr Mick Uibo,

Educator with particular interest in consumer issues and experience of consumer issues in remote indigenous communities

Mrs Barbara Vos,

Darwin business operator with international public relations and marketing experience and member of the Licensing Commission

Mr Randle Walker,

an Alice Springs accountant with extensive experience of consumer legislation and corporate governance

Appointments to the Consumer Affairs Council are for a three year term.