



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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DR PETER TOYNE MLA
Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

WARNING TO CONSUMERS ON 'STOP WAR' FAX POLL

Minister for Justice and Attorney General Dr Peter Toyne is warning consumers about a new fax poll hitting Territory homes and businesses.

Consumer Affairs officers have been inundated with complaints from irate consumers who have been asked to participate in a faxback poll, on the war against Iraq.

Dr Toyne said "The fax poll originates from England, and asks people to answer yes or no on Australia's involvement in the War against Iraq".

He said "The cost of sending the return fax is quoted as \$5.50 per minute and dependant on the type and speed of individuals fax machines can take between 2 minutes and 10 minutes to send.

The fax fee is automatically charged back to the sender's facsimile account with the originator pocketing the majority of the money".

Dr Toyne urged Territory consumers to take the sensible approach when evaluating the expenditure of between \$11 - \$50 to fax the reply to a 1902 fax number.

He said "Although the originator claims that the poll results will be presented to Prime Minister Howard, there is no proof of legitimacy and every chance that this English based company are just another mercenary cheat, jumping on the bandwagon to make a quick dollar out of a tragic world event".

For advice on potential scams or to advise of received scams you can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs 7 days a week on 8999 1999.