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# NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

May 6 2004

**DR PETER TOYNE MLA**

Minister for Justice

## **ITINERANT HANDYMEN ON THE MOVE THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY**

Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne has issued a warning to Territorians to be on the lookout over the next few months for interstate traders and handymen offering their services at a cheaper price than local businesses.

Dr Toyne said the onset of the dry season sees the emergence of itinerant traders and handymen who come to the Territory to get away from the southern winter and earn a few dollars while they are here.

“In the past many Territorians have been caught out with poor quality workmanship, paying upfront for services not supplied and no opportunity for redress before the traders skip town,” Dr Toyne said.

“Some of services offered include building, roofing, house painting, and tree lopping just to name a few.”

The Minister urges consumers NOT to pay up front for work to be undertaken and you should only pay the agreed price when the works have been completed to a reasonable standard.

Dr Toyne said if consumers are planning for work to be undertaken, they should check the bona fides of the person, and if possible contact previous customers.”

“The cheapest job isn’t always the cheapest in the long run, as itinerant traders and handymen usually work out of the back of a ute or van, and redress for defective products and/or poor workmanship is almost impossible,” he said.

Consumers requiring further information are urged to contact Consumer Affairs 7 days a week on 8999 1999.