



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

December 9, 2004

DR PETER TOYNE MLA Attorney-General & Minister for Justice

CONSUMER CHRISTMAS TRADING CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

Territorians are being urged to shop-smart this Christmas to ensure there's no financial hangover this festive season.

Consumer Affairs has kicked-off its education campaign directed at the Christmas shopping period.

Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne said the Christmas consumer campaign centres on consumer education to help consumers have a positive Christmas shopping experience.

"The education campaign is focused on providing general shopping tips and advice on refunds, warranties, toy safety and encouraging consumers to make this Christmas debt-free," Dr Toyne said.

"Consumer Affairs officers will be available at the Palmerston Shopping Centre on Friday 10 December between 4pm and 7pm and Saturday between 10am and 2pm, to assist consumers and traders with any consumer issue.

As well, information sheets will be available on a range of issues including advice on buying safe toys, mobile phones and lay-by and refund policies.

"Toy safety is an important issue for the festive season and I encourage all parents to ensure the toys they buy are safe and to seek advice from Consumer Affairs if they have any questions.

"With post Christmas in mind consumers should also make themselves aware of refund and warranty rights and take it easy on the credit card.

Overspending on credit can see consumers paying for that Christmas spending well into next year and add extra financial burden."

Contact: Richard O'Leary 040111 9586

The December edition of the Consumer Affairs Council newsletter also outlines a range of Christmas shopping tips and a special feature on mobile phones.

The newsletter is available from most libraries, MLA offices or by phoning Consumer Affairs.

Consumer Affairs officers can be contacted on telephone 89991999 seven days a week.