

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Acting Commissioner of Consumer Affairs**

16 April 2009

#### **SUSPECT RENTAL AGENCY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF STIMULUS PAYMENTS TO REMOTE TERRITORIANS**

Consumer Affairs A/Commissioner, Gary Clements, warns Territorians to be on the lookout for representatives from a rental agency who are targeting Territorians in remote areas.

The company is called Supa Cheap Rentals Pty Ltd. The salesmen sign customers to an ongoing rental agreement for products such as TVs, fridges, MP4 players, laptops and mobile phones where the cost far exceeds the value of the product. In one instance a consumer was signed up to a rental agreement costing \$2,739 for an old style 68cm CRT television.

These activities breach the door-to-door trading provisions of the *Consumer and Fair Trading Act*. Such breaches can incur a fine of up to \$110 000 for a corporation.

The company was created only one month ago. It appears that this company was created for the sole purpose of ripping off consumers and taking advantage of the stimulus payments being paid by the Federal government.

Mr Clements said, "Consumers should be advised that door-to-door trading provisions allow consumers a 10 day cooling off period and they must be provided with documentation outlining their rights." "They should also be careful how they spend the additional money they are receiving as part of the stimulus package" Mr Clements said.

"Consumers should always be careful dealing with itinerant traders as they have little opportunity to seek refunds or repairs should things go wrong," "We recommend Territorians deal with reputable Territory businesses that provide local sales, services and warranties" said Mr Clements.

Consumers are urged to contact Consumer Affairs if they have been approached by these men or would like more information by phoning 1800 019 319.