

MEDIA RELEASE

Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

13th October 2009

DODGY BITUMEN LAYERS TARGET TERRITORIANS

Territorians are being warned to be careful when dealing with itinerant traders offering to lay bitumen driveways after a Pinelands resident advised Consumer Affairs of an approach by a man offering “left over bitumen”.

Consumer Affairs Commissioner Gary Clements is warning consumers to be on the lookout for a group using a Toyota mini tipper offering to lay bitumen on consumer’s driveways.

“The product is said to be left over from another job, however past experience throughout Australia indicates that the product is sub-standard and the traders are attempting to rip off unwary consumers”, Mr Clements said.

These itinerant traders are breaching door to door sales provisions and are attempting to charge high prices and leave before consumers become aware of the scam.

Consumers who purchase goods and services from door to door traders are legally entitled to a 10 day cooling off period, where the purchase costs more than \$50. Traders can’t demand any payment during the cooling off period. Consumers should also be provided with cancellation forms to complete should they decide not to continue with the contract within the cooling off period. These scammers do not abide by these laws.

“Consumers should stick to the basics. Always get written quotes for work, don’t pay for work until it is completed, demand receipts and proof of identification from traders.” said Mr Clements.

Buying local is often the safest method as the trader is then available should something go wrong.

Consumers who have any information about these itinerant traders should contact Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319.