

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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

26 March 2009

#### **DODGY HOME THEATRE SELLERS NAMED BY COMMISSIONER**

Consumer Affairs Commissioner, Gary Clements warns Territorians to be on the lookout for dodgy itinerant salesmen selling home theatre systems from the back of a van.

The equipment is branded "Protechnik" and "Icon Media Lab". The dubious salesmen say that the equipment is part of a promotional exercise. In one instance a consumer negotiated to pay \$1000 for speakers advertised at \$5999. The ease at negotiating a reduced price questions the actual value of these items.

"We recommend Territorians deal with reputable Territory businesses that provide local sales, services and warranties" Mr Clements said.

"A similar scam has occurred in Western Australia in 2008 with one consumer paying \$700 for stereo speakers worth as little as \$35.00".

These activities potentially breach the door-to-door trading provisions of the *Consumer and Fair Trading Act*. Such breaches can incur a fine of up to \$22000 for an individual and \$110 000 for a corporation.

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."

"Consumers should always be careful dealing with itinerant traders as they have little opportunity to seek refunds or repairs should things go wrong," Mr Clements said.

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

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