

Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009

### MEASURING UP RIVERLAND RETAILERS

Trade measurement checks in the Riverland have found many traders using incorrect measuring instruments.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago said 50 small traders in the region were visited by Trade Measurement inspectors from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) last week to check that scales and other measuring instruments were accurate.

The checks focused on pharmacy, jewellery, delicatessens, automotive and hardware retailers, with few of them passing without fault.

“It was disappointing to find some traders relying on unapproved measuring instruments to measure goods. Many traders visited claimed to be unaware of their responsibilities under trade measurement laws,” Minister Gago said.

Traders purchasing measuring instruments from the internet or direct from overseas sources have no guarantee that the measuring instruments are approved for trade. Measuring instruments should only be obtained from organisations holding licences issued by a trade measurement authority.

“All traders regardless of their location or size need to be aware of and comply with these laws,” said the Minister.

Hardware and automotive stores performed the worst, with over 80% using incorrect length measures, or in some cases, none at all.

Pre-packaged items were also tested to ensure that the actual quantity matched the labelling on the packet, with almost a third of items examined found to be labelled incorrectly.

“Traders found to be in breach of the law were issued with warnings, and given information sheets as many claimed to be unaware of their obligations,” said Ms Gago.

“Follow up checks will be carried out to ensure traders are complying with weights and measures laws.”

If any errors are found during follow up checks traders risk a penalty of up to \$20,000 under the *Trade Measurement Act 1993*.

Consumers can report any concerns about inaccurate quantities to OCBA’s Trade Measurement section on 8234 2036 or 131 882 for regional callers. More information is also available at

[www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au)