

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

Contact: **Immacolata Bollella**
Phone: 8204 9512

**Education and
Information Services**

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Level 1
Chesser House
91-97 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1719
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 225

Tel 08 8204 9516
Fax 08 8204 9509

www.ocba.sa.gov.au

Tripodi - Unlicensed dealer banned

Giuseppe (Joe) Tripodi has been permanently banned from being a second-hand vehicle dealer or otherwise involved in any way in the selling of second-hand vehicles, after disciplinary action in the District Court by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA). This action was taken following Tripodi's previous convictions, including unlicensed dealing, failing to register a business name, and larceny.

Tripodi was convicted in October 2004 for operating as an unlicensed second-hand motor vehicle dealer and without a registered name. A consumer complaint led OCBA to discover Tripodi's activities. He was fined a total of \$10,000 for both offences.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat said that Tripodi showed total disregard for his obligations under the consumer protection legislation and a complete lack of concern for consumers' interests.

"Mr Tripodi's convictions have proven that he is not a fit and proper person to hold a second-hand vehicle dealer's license under the *Second-Hand Vehicle Dealers Act*."

Judge Barrett and Assessors considered that Tripodi's activities were very serious and considered that permanently banning him was the only way to protect the public. In the course of this decision, the court said, "In our view the conduct is so serious and extensive that the only course sufficient to protect the public is to make the orders permanently."

Although the profit Tripodi made from the sale of 28 cars is not known, gross takings in three months of selling second hand vehicles unlicensed totalled \$95,620.

Tripodi was previously the director of a licensed second-hand car yard. That business folded a number of years ago. Tripodi re-entered the industry in August 2003 without getting a licence.

Mr Bodycoat said, " Mr Tripodi put consumers at risk and has no place in the motor vehicle industry."

Consumers are encouraged to report unlawful activity by second-hand vehicle dealers to OCBA on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for country callers.