

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
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7 May 2009

ANOTHER DODGY CAR DEALER CONVICTED

The Adelaide Magistrates Court has convicted another dodgy car dealer with the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) warning that others can expect the same if caught engaging in illegal activity.

Francis Xavier Fallon of Croydon Park was convicted of a string of offences on Tuesday. Fallon pleaded guilty to carrying on business as a car dealer while unlicensed and falsely misrepresenting that vehicles had a particular history.

Fallon's convictions fell across both the Second-Hand Vehicle Dealers Act 1995 and its Regulations and the Fair Trading Act 1987.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs Anne Gale says Fallon is an example of a serious offender and warns others considering such activity that they can expect similar action from OCBA.

"Stop and think before you consider selling cars illegally. Think about how it will affect your life and your future when you have convictions against your name," the Commissioner said.

The Magistrate took into account Fallon's financial situation, sentencing him to 280 hours of community service to be performed within 16 months.

"The same can happen to anybody else who tries their hand at this sort of conduct. We are watching the industry and we know all the tactics used to dupe unsuspecting consumers," the Commissioner said.

Under the Second-Hand Vehicle Dealer's Act 1995, a person who carries on business as a second-hand vehicle dealer without a licence faces a penalty of up to \$20,000.

Misrepresenting the history of a good is a serious offence under the Fair Trading Act 1995 and carries a maximum penalty of \$20,000.

People are encouraged to report unlawful activity by second-hand vehicle dealers to Consumer Affairs on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for country callers, or visit the website www.ocba.sa.gov.au.