

# News Release

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**Hon Gail Gago**  
Minister for State/Local Government  
Relations  
Minister for the Status of Women  
Minister for Consumer Affairs  
Minister Government Enterprises  
Minister Ast Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Energy

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## ITINERANT PAINTERS

Residents of Adelaide's Western suburbs are being warned to be on the lookout for itinerant traders this time offering to paint house roofs for bargain prices.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) has received reports of four men posing as employees from a legitimate roof maintenance company doorknocking in the Seaton area.

They are believed to be driving two utility type vehicles, one white, the other dark blue. Registration details have been passed on to the Police.

The men offer to paint house roofs, undertaking the work immediately and in one case driving the consumer to the bank to withdraw funds with which to pay them.

One elderly consumer paid \$5,000 for a substandard paint job, which was completed in half an hour and another consumer just around the corner parted with \$2,500 for similar quality work.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago says OCBA is urging consumers to call in with any information that can assist with investigations and has informed the Police to keep an eye out.

"OCBA is keen to hear from anyone with information about the conduct or whereabouts of these particular traders," said Minister Gago.

"We are investigating these crooks and urge consumers to be immediately suspicious of anybody offering cut price house painting. If anybody with this sort of story knocks on your door, call OCBA."

People who purchase goods or services from a door-to-door trader are legally entitled to a 10-day cooling off period, where the product or service costs over \$50 and customers should be given a form enabling them to cool off.

"These sellers appear to be breaching fair trading legislation by ignoring consumer rights to cool off. They should not be demanding any money or performing any work until the 10 day cooling off period has passed," Minister Gago said.

Once people discover problems with services from itinerant traders, they soon realise it's all too late and the salespeople are unreachable as they've moved on.

"People should remember their rights – demand receipts, contract documents, proof of ID and proof of the trader's building work contractor's licence," said the Minister.

For further information or to report itinerant traders contact OCBA on 8204 9777, or for regional callers 131 882 (local call cost).