

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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Warning - Leather jackets being sold in car park

The guy looks cool and fashionable. He could be European. He has some leather jacket samples brought in to Australia for promotional use. That's over. He wants to sell one to you so he doesn't have to pay excess luggage charges when he flies out. If you buy more than one, he will do a really good price. But why is he approaching you in the car park?

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) is warning consumers not to get caught. The suave salesman is going to rip you off.

Consumers are led to believe the jackets are of very high quality leather and normally expensive. OCBA's intelligence says that the jackets aren't what they are made out to be and aren't worth the money.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat urged consumers not to buy anything, but to dob the salespeople in to OCBA if they are approached.

"Anyone who has been approached by these leather jacket salespeople should contact OCBA. We'd like to catch them or move them on "

"Consumers should be on the lookout. It looks like these people are travelling around Australia and may be heading to South Australia. Warnings from fair trading agencies in Western Australia and Tasmania have run them out of those states."

Traders must tell the truth about the goods they sell. If they sell goods priced at more than \$50 via door-to-door selling, then they have to tell consumers about their cooling off rights.

Consumers have also learnt to expect that they have warranty and refund rights. They won't get any of these if they buy a leather jacket from these people.

"It is a breach of the *Fair Trading Act 1987*, to misrepresent the history and characteristics of goods. It is also OCBA's view that these people are selling door-to-door. It is highly unlikely that the sellers of these leather jackets are complying with the Fair Trading Act."

Any consumer who has purchased a leather jacket this way or who has information that could help should contact OCBA on 8204 9777, regional callers should call 131 882.