

# 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

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009

## SA HOSTS IDEAS FOR NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION

Adelaide will be a hub of ideas to better protect consumers over the next two days as we host the 2009 National Consumer Congress involving leading international guest speakers and Australian experts.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago says it's a pivotal time in the creation of what is promising to be cutting edge consumer law for the protection of Australians.

"This congress presents an opportunity to influence the detail of nationally consistent laws safeguarding the rights of consumers," says Minister Gago.

"Consumer protection laws haven't kept pace with the rapidly changing marketplace and the ever-expanding range of purchases and transactions that are available to consumers.

"It's time for a comprehensive overhaul to better protect Australians in relation to outdated warranty laws, inadequate credit regulations, unfair contracts and unsafe products.

"The States and Territories stand poised to work with the Australian Government on these comprehensive new arrangements."

This week's congress presents an important opportunity to canvass some of the latest thinking from around the world as we continue to explore the brightest ideas and share the knowledge that will benefit Australian consumers.

"Traders are also set to benefit from the harmonisation of consumer laws as they will only need to conform to one set of guidelines rather than adapt to variations across the state and territory borders.

As we usher in this new era of protection for consumers this week's theme 'a fair marketplace?' will also examine the best ways to address current consumer issues such as sustainability and consumer and business ethics.

The Congress program is available at [www.ncc2009.com.au](http://www.ncc2009.com.au) and includes:

**8.45-8.55am**      **Welcome**      **Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago (SA)**

**8.55-9.20am**      **Keynote Address Min. for Competition Policy & Consumer Affairs Chris Bowen**

**9.20-9.50am**      **Keynote Address Deputy Chair ACCC Peter Kell**

**Venue: Hyatt Regency Hotel**