

Thursday 4th October 2007

NEW CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

Dr Mal Hemmerling has been appointed Commissioner for Consumer Affairs from next Monday, 8th of October 2007, on a short-term contract. The former Commissioner, Mark Bodycoat, was recently appointed to the position of Public Trustee.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, said the focus of the Consumer Affairs department is to ensure it remains at the forefront of consumer protection and for South Australia to re-establish itself as a national leader.

“Our aim is to create an environment where local businesses flourish and consumers have confidence. It’s important that we support and encourage ethical business operators as well as stamping out any rogue elements that may exist.

Dr Hemmerling is a well-known South Australian and will bring years of experience to this role, given his level of experience across both the public and private sectors.

His appointment will ensure that the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) is prominently placed within South Australia’s dynamic business environment and will enable him to identify where improvements and service innovation can be implemented,” Ms Rankine said

Dr Hemmerling will assist in identifying new ways in which we can be more effective, boost customer service efficiencies and continue reducing unnecessary red tape.

One of the most important aspects of Consumer Affairs is to provide a strong public interface and a focus on proactive community engagement. This ensures we develop good public policy, which protects people and fosters a supportive business environment.

“The work of OCBA makes a positive difference to the welfare of all South Australians, and I am looking forward to working with Mr Hemmerling during this intervening period while we go through the process of engaging a permanent Commissioner for Consumer Affairs,” Ms Rankine said.