

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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Rogue traders fly the coup

The consumer watchdog is warning people about fly-by-night bitumen layers and painters drumming up business in the northern suburbs.

Acting on information from the public, Investigators from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs ("OCBA") have tracked down a group of itinerant bitumen layers who have temporarily located in the Gawler area.

Deputy Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Euan Miller said fly-by-night traders are a danger to consumers and they should not be hired.

"The activities of this group are well known to OCBA and our interstate counterparts. Always on the move from region to region, the group seeks out unsuspecting consumers and performs shoddy work on a cash only basis."

Last night, OCBA investigators attempted to interview two persons of interest (using the names Darren Warrilow and Andrew Kefford) who were staying at a northern suburbs caravan park. However the group fled the caravan park soon after being confronted by the OCBA investigators.

"Although their activities in Adelaide have been disrupted on this occasion, they may surface in another region of the state. Consumers in country regions need to be aware of itinerant painters and bitumen layers."

"Many tradespeople in South Australia are qualified and, where appropriate, licensed for specific work. The licensing system protects consumers from these types of fly-by-night traders. They are notorious for doing work that they are not licensed to do, which is overpriced and poor quality."

Mr Miller said consumers should be very wary of these people and report them to OCBA immediately.

"These con artists are cunning because they encourage you to pay in advance or to pay too much. As soon as they have their money they move on and there is no way of getting problems fixed. You risk paying money for the work up front and then paying more to get the work fixed."

OCBA has been liaising with Police to track down these itinerant traders.

"If you are approached by these groups or have contracted their services, contact OCBA before taking any further action."

To report these itinerant operators contact OCBA on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for regional callers or Police on 131 444.