

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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Speaker sellers back in town

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) are urging consumers to be on the lookout for people in a white van offering to sell cheap loudspeakers, and to do b in the operators if they see them.

Complaints in recent days to OCBA indicate that the sellers are breaching the *Fair Trading Act 1987* in a number of ways. They are misrepresenting both the overall circumstances and the quality of the speakers.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat, said anyone who is approached by these swindlers should contact OCBA quickly.

“Any information from consumers can help. I am also concerned that anyone who has purchased a set of speakers could be afraid to tell the Police or OCBA because they might think they broke the law in buying them, but OCBA’s main concern is to get the perpetrators.”

Mr Bodycoat also said consumers who buy goods out of the back of a van like this were asking for trouble.

“The goods may have been stolen, or may be fakes. In the case of the speakers we know they are overpriced despite the scammers claiming they are a great bargain. And, if there is a problem with the goods it is much more difficult to track down an itinerant trader to arrange an exchange or refund. Dealing with these people doesn’t make sense.”

Traders must not misrepresent the history and characteristics of goods, and if selling goods priced at more than \$50 via door to door selling, then they must inform consumers about their cooling off rights.

OCBA warned consumers in March this year against buying speakers from the back of a van. It is not yet clear whether there is any connection between the two. However, the salespeople are using a similar modus operandi and driving around the metropolitan area in a white van with Victorian number plates.

To report a suspected scam or unscrupulous trading practice contact OCBA on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for regional callers.