

Media Release

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Warning - Loudspeakers being sold from a van

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) have warned consumers not to get caught in a scam operating in and around metropolitan Adelaide.

Organised crews of salespeople are driving around selling loudspeakers out of the backs of vans. The salespeople approach victims sitting at bus stops or in vehicles, at traffic lights and in car parks.

A sales crew will approach the potential victim and advise they are delivering a number of speakers and claim that the warehouse had made a mistake with the "extra" sets of speakers. The salespeople then produce a "doctored" delivery document in an attempt to prove the blunder. Cunningly, the salespeople try to sell the speakers at a substantially "discounted" price and encourage people to purchase the speakers because "no one will ever know about it."

Consumers are misled to believe the speakers are a well-recognised and respected brand that is of very high quality and normally expensive. Information received by OCBA indicates that speakers are not the brand, or anywhere near their quality

The scammers encourage their victims to withdraw the money from their bank accounts or get the money from their credit cards. They are followed or escorted to a bank or ATM to withdraw the necessary amount of money. No receipt is ever issued.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs today urged anyone who thought they had bought a set of these loudspeakers to contact the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs.

It is a breach of the Fair Trading Act 1987, to misrepresent the history and characteristics of goods. It is also likely that conduct of these people is door-to-door selling. It is highly unlikely that the sellers of these speakers are complying with the Fair Trading Act."

"I am very concerned the victims will not tell the Police or OCBA about their purchase because they have assumed they have been involved in an illegal transaction. OCBA's first concern is to get the perpetrators of the scam."

To report any concerns about this method of sale or any consumer who has information and has purchased a set of speakers similar to method mentioned should contact the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for regional callers.



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