

# Media Release

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## You can cool off

Adelaide consumers who attended a recent seminar, signed on the dotted line and parted with up to \$2500 may be able to cool off and withdraw from their contracts.

Storesonline International Inc recently held a seminar in Adelaide. The organisation sells web design and hosting software for entrepreneurs who wish to sell goods or services over the Internet from home.

Storesonline is based in the USA. Consumers may know this operation by the name of either Storesonline, iNet Seminars or Imergent Inc. Imergent Inc has been previously charged in the US under the Business Opportunity Fraud Act (USA) 2002.

Consumers were initially attracted to attend a free seminar by promotional material that included testimonials from people claiming to make huge profits with help from Storesonline. This first seminar whet their appetites to attend a second seminar in which, they were told, they would learn how to get their business up and running and learn marketing tips to achieve a high volume of sales.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat warned consumers to be careful about making financial decisions during promotional seminars. "Consumers should take time out, and do their homework, then make an informed decision whether they proceed with an involvement or not."

People who signed up in this case also received a notice of cancellation that alludes to a three day cooling off period. The order form states the buyers may cancel, without penalty or obligation, at any time prior to midnight of the third business day after the date of signing the contract.

Any consumers who want to exercise their cooling off rights should complete the form and return to Storesonline International Inc before the expiry date.

Storesonline International Inc has no registered office in Australia, so it would be difficult for consumers to recover monies if they have problems down the track.

Mr Bodycoat said, "Be especially wary about schemes where you feel under pressure to make a decision. Check and consider offers very carefully before parting with your money. Get advice if you need to: some extra time and care now can save a lot of heartache later."

For further information contact the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs on (08) 8204 9777 or 131 882 for country callers. Further information is also available at [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au)



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