

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007

### **WHITE VAN SPEAKER SCAM**

White van salespeople are back, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine warned today.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) has received reports of crews of salespeople driving around Adelaide selling loudspeakers out of the backs of vans.

OCBA is warning people not to buy these speakers from the “white van” salespeople. People are led to believe the speakers are of very high quality and a well-respected brand.

“The scam often involves approaching people at bus stops or in vehicles at traffic lights and in car parks, attempting to convince them that they’re getting a bargain.

“These scammers are trying it on again. They telling the same old story - the speakers are high quality and for sale at a discounted price,” Ms Rankine said.

The sales process starts with the sales crew approaching the potential victim and advising 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 bogus delivery document as “evidence” of the blunder. The salespeople try to sell the speakers at a substantially ‘discounted’ price and encourage people to purchase them because ‘no one will ever know about it.’

Under the Fair Trading Act, people who travel from place to place, carrying on business selling goods or services over \$50 are required to comply with the door-to-door sales provisions, which provides a ten-day cooling off period, the deal is to be set out in a contract, and no payment is to be requested by the trader before the expiration of the cooling-off period.

“Clearly that’s not happening,” Ms Rankine said.

“Remember, these people won’t have a physical place of business and you don’t have any way of contacting them if there are problems with the goods.

“I’m also concerned that victims will not tell Police or contact OCBA about their purchase because they assume they have been involved in an illegal or questionable transaction, possibly purchasing stolen goods.

“In the first instance I want to warn people not to buy these speakers.

“I would also urge them to contact OCBA on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for regional callers with any details in relation to these shonky operators,” the Minister said.