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VAN SCAMMERS ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Salespeople touting video cameras and other electrical goods are reportedly back trawling Adelaide's streets in their vans, targeting potential victims walking down the street, sitting at bus stops, or those stationary in vehicles at traffic lights or in car parks.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, said, "South Australians need to be aware of the resurgence of these itinerant sales people who target unsuspecting members of the community and if approached, report them immediately to Consumer Affairs.

Ms Rankine said that these types of travelling sales people seem to roam around the country and have a tendency to misrepresent the goods they are trying to sell.

"The products are generally substandard and overpriced. People need to remember if there are any problems with the goods, these people will be impossible to track down once they've moved on.

It is a severe breach of fair trading laws when people misrepresent the characteristics of goods they are selling."

Not only are people probably being misled about the characteristics of the electrical goods and it's highly likely they are also breaching the door-to-door provisions under the Fair Trading Act. Running a business, which travels from place to place, selling goods or services, is classified as door-to-door selling and is regulated under the Act.

"Travelling salespeople who charge \$50 or more for goods and/or services must provide customers with a written contract and information about their cooling off rights. It is highly unlikely that the white van sellers would be complying with the Act," Ms Rankine said.

Consumer Affairs is also concerned that victims will not contact them or Police about their purchase because they assume they'll be penalised for having been involved in an illegal or questionable transaction.

"People need to remember that any information they divulge will help stamp out this suspect sales activity," Ms Rankine said.

Information from the public recently led to the discovery of hundreds of imitation leather jackets, which were being sold to unsuspecting victims in the metropolitan area.

To report any concerns about door-to-door traders contact Consumer Affairs on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for regional callers.