

# Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and  
Business Affairs

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## WHITE VAN SALE SCAM SPOTTED IN CBD

**City-goers are being targeted by dubious itinerant traders selling dodgy high-end goods from the back of a white van.**

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The Office of Business and Consumers Affairs (OCBA) received reports today of a Victorian plated White Mitsubishi four-wheel-drive van selling Apple products, Sony electrical goods and Italian cookware on the west-end of Franklin Street.

Acting Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Dini Soulio, is warning consumers not to exchange money with the dodgy 'White Van Salesmen'.

"The culprits have been described as males of European appearance, aged in their mid 50's," the Acting Commissioner said.

"They are approaching passers-by, offering the sale of 'high-end' goods at to-good-to-be-true, cash-only prices.

"These goods, including iPhones, iPods and digital cameras, are poor imitations and do not function properly."

OCBA has already received two reports of consumers who spent around \$1,000 cash each on a range of the faulty, imitation goods.

"There is little protection for consumers when they buy goods from street traders and often the products are of inferior quality and could even be stolen."

"These 'fly-by-night' traders disappear as soon as money changes hands, making it extremely difficult to be recompensed for the dodgy products.

Door-to-door trading is defined under legislation as the practice under which a person goes from place to place to sell goods.

"Itinerant 'White Van Salesmen' operate in breach of the door-to-door sales provisions in the Fair Trading Act," the Acting Commissioner said.

"This law offers protection to both consumers and reputable traders, giving a 10-day cooling off period during which the trader must not provide any goods or services or accept payment until the cooling off period expires."

"Although spotted in the CBD, these operators could turn up anywhere around Adelaide, so I'd urge consumers to be vigilant and help us to curb their antics by reporting any sightings to OCBA," the Acting Commissioner said.

If consumers are approached by salesmen selling goods from a white Mitsubishi van, they are urged to contact OCBA on 8204 9777 (131 882 for regional calls).

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