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MEDIA RELEASE

This Christmas, do business with Santa Claus, not Santa Claws selling cheap electrical equipment from the back of a van.

Don't buy home theatre systems at a discount price as a last minute Christmas present from the back of a van or wagon – or any other type of sled. Travelling con men are playing Santa Claws by trying to get their hands onto your Christmas dollar.

NT Consumer Affairs has recently received information that Loyd Kadler and another male wearing high visibility work shirts have attempted to sell home theatre systems from their sleigh, a white 2015 Toyota LandCruiser Prado, NT registration number CC 08 QQ. Photos are attached.

These travelling con men are known for using high pressure sales tactics and make misleading claims about the availability of the goods, quality, reasons for sale and origin of the goods. The Bad Santa's may even show a website with the item and a recommended retail price. This is all part of the con to make you think the item is expensive when it is not. The website also lacks any contact details for the company or authorised dealers nor any warranty information.

NT Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, Gary Clements, warns you to avoid doing any business with these con men, especially from the back of a sled, van, car or SUV. Experience has shown that consumers will be ripped off by these con men who sell sub-standard products at inflated prices and provide no recourse for consumers.

"These con men are breaching the Australian Consumer Law by failing to properly comply with unsolicited sales laws which require consumers to be allowed a 10 day cooling off period for any unsolicited sales over \$100. Breaches of the Australian Consumer Law attract penalties of up to \$1.1 million for corporations and \$220 000 for individuals" said Mr. Clements.

If you are approached by travelling con men or anyone wearing a red coat purporting to be Santa Claus, our advice is to resist deals that appear "too good to be true" and to report them to NT Consumer Affairs. Where possible, obtaining information such as vehicle registration numbers and business details as well as the identity of the sellers is very helpful.

Remember: The real Santa Claus gives, he does not take your money in exchange for cheap inferior goods.

For more information about Northern Territory Consumer Affairs go to the Consumer Affairs website www.consumeraffairs.nt.gov.au or contact Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319.



Loyd Kadler



2015 Toyota LandCruiser Prado