

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Don't Buy a Rubbish Car

First things first

Do Your Homework

Shop around BEFORE you buy.

Compare the prices of the same or similar cars in other yards.

Work out how much you can afford to pay.

Don't forget the added expenses such as:

- the cost of changing the registration into your name;
- stamp duty;
- fuel; and
- maintenance.

Only choose a car that you can afford.

Arrange for a mechanic to check that the vehicle is road-worthy and has no major problems.

Don't sign *any* paperwork unless you are sure you want the car.

If there's anything you don't understand, take the unsigned contract away and get some independent advice from your friends, Community Council, Consumer Affairs or Aboriginal Legal Aid, **before** you sign.

Never sign a contract with blank spaces.

PLAY IT SAFE

Buy your car from a Northern Territory Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealer.

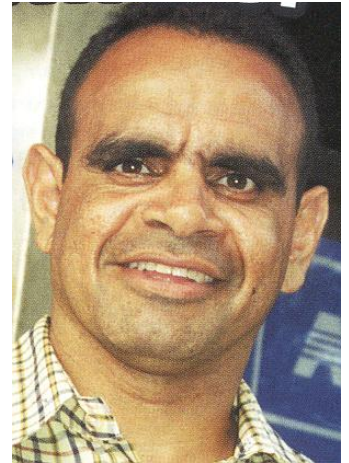
A licensed motor vehicle dealer will have their licence number displayed in the car yard.

If you buy a used car from a dealer the car has to be fit to be registered in the Northern Territory.

The dealer must also guarantee that there is no money owing on the vehicle from previous owners.

The dealer may also have to give you a warranty on the vehicle he sells you.

- Cars under 10 years old that have travelled less than 160,000 kms have a 3 month warranty (by law).
- Cars over 10 years old or have travelled over 160,000 must be roadworthy.



Michael Long

BE CAREFUL IF YOU ARE ASKED TO SIGN AWAY YOUR WARRANTY

The dealer may offer you the car for a cheaper price if you waive the warranty (*that is give away your rights*).

If you have signed the waiver form and something goes wrong with the car, or it breaks down, you cannot go back to the dealer to have the car fixed under warranty.

If you decide to waive the warranty, the form must be signed in front of a policeman or a Consumer Affairs officer.

If you need to know more information about the different types of warranties that apply to the vehicle you wish to buy, contact the Consumer Affairs office on telephone:

1800 019 319

NORTHERN TERRITORY CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS ONLY APPLY TO MOTOR CARS BOUGHT FROM A LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER.

There is less protection when buying privately.

- It is best to avoid buying a car privately or from one of your mates.
- If you buy a car, that has been stolen, or the previous owner still owes money on the loan, the car can be taken off you, and you will not get your money back.
- To check if there is money owing on the car, or if it is stolen, telephone the Register of Encumbered Vehicles (REVS) on 13 32 20. Or www.revs.nsw.gov.au
- REVS will need the vehicle registration number and the engine and chassis number. For a small charge you can be assured the vehicle will not be repossessed for someone else's debt.
- If you buy from someone who does not hold a motor vehicle dealer's licence, and there is something wrong with the car, or it breaks down, there is no warranty. You would have to pay for all of the repairs, even if you had only purchased the car a few days before it broke down.

There is no NT law that applies to private sales of motor vehicles.

**Only buy your car from a
NT Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealer**

**Telephone CONSUMER AFFAIRS for advice
1800 019 319**

Make it a WINNER!

For further information contact Consumer Affairs

Old Admiralty Towers, 68 The Esplanade, GPO Box 1722, Darwin NT 0801
Ph: 08 8999 1999 - Fax: 08 8935 7727

or

Level 1, Belvedere House, Parsons Street, Alice Springs NT 0870

or phone 1800 019 319 SMS 040 111 6801

Email: consumer@nt.gov.au

Web site: consumeraffairs.nt.gov.au

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