

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CONSUMER AFFAIRS ORDINANCE 1973

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The proposed Consumer Affairs Ordinance 1973 will provide for the establishment of a Consumer Affairs Council and a Consumer Affairs Bureau.

The seven member Council will be made up of representatives of consumers, a member of the Australian Capital Territory Advisory Council, an officer of the Department of the Capital Territory and people experienced in manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, distributing or advertising goods or otherwise engaged in trade or commerce. The functions of the Council will be to carry out investigations, either of its own motion or at the request of the Minister, into matters affecting the interests of consumers. It will report to the Minister on its investigations and the action that it recommends should be taken. The Council will act in an advisory capacity only.

The Consumer Affairs Bureau will be directed by an officer of the Department of the Capital Territory. Its functions will be to receive and investigate complaints from consumers and to act as a clearing house in the conducting of research into and the dissemination of information about matters affecting the interests of consumers.

The proposed Ordinance is an interim measure pending the introduction of more comprehensive legislation on the subject of Consumer Affairs.

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(Minister's Initials)