

Fair Trading Act 1987 No 68

[1987-68]



New South Wales

Status Information

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Provisions in force

The provisions displayed in this version of the legislation have all commenced.

Notes—

- **Does not include amendments by**

Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002 No 66 (amended by *Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2003*) (not commenced — to commence on 1.9.2003)

Conveyancers Licensing Act 2003 No 3 (not commenced)

Valuers Act 2003 No 4 (not commenced)

Fair Trading Amendment Act 2003 No 35 (not commenced)

Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Dangerous Goods) Act 2003 No 38 (not commenced)

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2003 No 40 (not commenced — to commence on 1.9.2003)

- **See also**

Food Bill 2003

Authorisation

This version of the legislation is compiled and maintained in a database of legislation by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and published on the NSW legislation website, and is certified as the form of that legislation that is correct under section 45C of the [Interpretation Act 1987](#).

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Fair Trading Act 1987 No 68



New South Wales

An Act to regulate the supply, advertising and description of goods and services and, in certain respects, the disposal of interests in land; to repeal the *Consumer Protection Act 1969* and certain other Acts; and for other purposes.

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Name of Act

This Act may be cited as the *Fair Trading Act 1987*.

2 Commencement

- (1) Sections 1 and 2 shall commence on the date of assent to this Act.
- (2) Except as provided by subsection (1), this Act shall commence on such day as may be appointed by the Governor and notified by proclamation published in the Gazette.

3 Extent to which Act binds the Crown

- (1) This Act binds the Crown in right of the State in so far as the Crown in right of the State carries on a business, whether directly or by an authority of the State.
- (2) Nothing in this Act renders the State liable to prosecution for an offence.

4 Definitions

- (1) In this Act, except in so far as the context or subject-matter otherwise indicates or requires:

acquire includes:

- (a) in relation to goods—acquire by purchase or exchange or by taking on lease, on hire or on hire-purchase,
- (b) in relation to services—accept, and
- (c) in relation to an interest in land—acquire by purchase or exchange or by taking on lease, or in any other manner in which an interest in land may be acquired for valuable consideration.

advisory committee means a committee appointed under section 25.

advisory council means any of the councils established by Divisions 5–8 of Part 2.

assisted person means a person granted legal assistance under section 13.

authorised person means a person authorised by the Director-General.

banning order means an order in force under section 30 or 31 prohibiting or restricting the supply of goods.

business includes:

- (a) a business not carried on for profit, and
- (b) a trade or profession.

consumer has the meaning given by section 5.

dangerous, in relation to goods, means likely to cause death or to cause injury to the body or health of a person, whether the death or injury is likely to be caused directly or indirectly and whether or not because of:

- (a) a failure to include with or on the goods any instructions for their use,
- (b) the inclusion with or on the goods of instructions for the use of the goods that are inaccurate or inadequate,
- (c) a failure of the goods to function in the manner represented by the manufacturer or supplier,
- (d) the goods not being of the quality represented by the manufacturer or supplier, or
- (e) the necessity for, or possibility of, the use of the goods with other goods.

Department means the Department of Fair Trading.

Director-General means the Director-General of the Department.

disposal, in relation to an interest in land, means disposal by sale, exchange or lease or by any other method by which an interest in land may be disposed of for valuable consideration.

document includes any source of information, whether or not the information is available only after the source is subjected to electronic or other process.

goods includes:

- (a) ships, aircraft and other vehicles,
- (b) animals, including fish,

- (c) minerals, trees and crops, whether on, under or attached to land or not,
- (d) gas and electricity, and
- (e) any component part of, or accessory to, goods.

interest, in relation to land, means:

- (a) a legal or equitable estate or interest in the land,
- (b) a right of occupancy of the land, or of a building or part of a building erected on the land, conferred by shares, or by virtue of a contract to purchase shares, in a corporation that owns the land or the building, or
- (c) a right, power or privilege over, or in connection with, the land.

investigator means an officer appointed by the Director-General under section 18 as an investigator.

officer means:

- (a) the Director-General,
- (b) a person appointed and employed under the [Public Service Act 1979](#) as referred to in section 7 (1),
- (c) a member of the staff of a public authority whose services are used in accordance with section 7 (2), or
- (d) a person, body or organisation referred to in section 7 (3).

price includes a charge of any description and the price of goods or services acquired by a person (whether or not by purchase) is the amount paid or payable for them or, if such an amount is not specified because acquisition of the goods or services is part only of a transaction for which a total amount is paid or payable, is:

- (a) the lowest amount for which the goods or services could reasonably have been acquired from the supplier at the time of the transaction or, if not from the supplier, from another supplier, or
- (b) if they could not reasonably have been acquired separately from any supplier—their value at the time of the transaction.

product information standard means a standard prescribed by regulations referred to in section 38.

product safety standard means a standard prescribed by regulations referred to in section 26.

Products Safety Committee means the Products Safety Committee established

under section 24.

public authority means a public or local authority constituted by an Act (whether or not a statutory body representing the Crown), a Government Department or an administrative office.

published, in relation to a statement, includes:

- (a) inserted in a newspaper or other publication,
- (b) publicly exhibited:
 - (i) in, on, over or under a building, vehicle, aircraft or ship, or in any other place (whether or not a public place and whether on land or water), or
 - (ii) in the air in view of persons who are, or are passing, in or on a street or public place,
- (c) contained in a document sent or given to a person or thrown or left upon, or at, premises occupied by a person,
- (d) broadcast by radio or television,
- (e) reproduced electronically, and
- (f) made verbally.

regulations means regulations made under section 92.

send includes deliver.

services includes any rights (including rights in relation to, and interests in, real or personal property), benefits, privileges or facilities that are, or are to be, provided, granted or conferred in trade or commerce, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes the rights, benefits, privileges and facilities that are, or are to be, provided, granted or conferred under:

- (a) a contract for or in relation to:
 - (i) the performance of work (including work of a professional nature), whether with or without the supply of goods,
 - (ii) the provision of gas or electricity or the provision of any other form of energy,
 - (iii) the provision, or making available for use, of facilities for amusement, entertainment, recreation or instruction, or
 - (iv) the conferring of rights, benefits or privileges for which remuneration is payable in the form of a royalty, tribute, levy or similar exaction,

- (b) a contract of insurance,
- (c) a contract between a banker and a customer of the banker entered into in the course of the carrying on by the banker of the business of banking,
- (d) a contract for or in relation to the lending of money,
- (e) a residential tenancy agreement (within the meaning of the [Residential Parks Act 1998](#)) under which the residential premises consist of a residential site in a residential park or a moveable dwelling on such a residential site (within the meaning of that Act), or
- (f) a service contract (within the meaning of the [Retirement Villages Act 1999](#)),

but does not include rights or benefits being the supply of goods or the performance of work under a contract of service.

statement includes a representation of any kind, whether made by means of:

- (a) words, maps, plans or drawings, or
- (b) pictorial representation or design,

or by any combination of those means.

supplier means a person who, in the course of a business, supplies goods or services.

supply includes:

- (a) in relation to goods:
 - (i) supply (including re-supply) by way of sale, exchange, lease, hire or hire-purchase, and
 - (ii) exhibit, expose or have in possession for the purpose of sale, exchange, lease, hire or hire-purchase or for any purpose of manufacture or trade,
- (b) in relation to services—provide, grant or render for valuable consideration, and
- (c) in relation both to goods and to services—donate for promotional purposes.

this Act includes regulations.

trade or commerce includes any business or professional activity.

Tribunal means the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal established by the [Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal Act 2001](#).

unsolicited goods means goods sent to a person without any request for the goods being made by, or by the authority of, the person.

unsolicited services means services supplied to a person without any request for the services being made by, or by the authority of, the person.

(2) In this Act:

- (a) a reference to the supply or acquisition of goods includes a reference to agreeing to supply or acquire goods,
- (b) a reference to the acquisition of goods includes a reference to the acquisition of property in, or rights in relation to, goods upon a supply of the goods,
- (c) a reference to the supply or acquisition of services includes a reference to agreeing to supply or acquire services,
- (d) a reference to the supply or acquisition of goods includes a reference to the supply or acquisition of goods together with services,
- (e) a reference to the supply or acquisition of services includes a reference to the supply or acquisition of services together with goods,
- (f) a reference to goods or services includes a reference to goods and services,
- (g) a reference to the disposal or acquisition of an interest in land includes a reference to agreeing to dispose of or acquire such an interest, whether or not the agreement is in writing or evidenced by writing, and
- (h) a reference to the disposal or acquisition of an interest in land includes a reference to the disposal or acquisition of such an interest together with goods.

(3) For the purposes of this Act:

- (a) the obtaining of credit by a person in connection with the acquisition of goods or services by the person is an acquisition by the person of services, and
- (b) any amount by which the price of the goods or services is increased because credit was obtained is the price of the services represented by the obtaining of credit.

(4) In this Act:

- (a) a reference to conduct is a reference to an act or a refusal to act, including in either case an act that constitutes, or would but for the refusal constitute, making or giving effect to a provision of a contract or arrangement, arriving at or giving effect to a provision of an understanding, or requiring or entering into a covenant,
- (b) a reference to refusing to do an act includes:
 - (i) a reference to refraining (otherwise than inadvertently) from doing the act, and

- (ii) a reference to making it known that the act will not be done, and
 - (c) a reference to a person offering to do an act, or to do an act on a particular condition, includes a reference to the person making known a willingness to accept applications, offers or proposals for the person to do the act or to do that act on the condition.
- (5) In this Act:
- (a) a reference to loss or damage, other than a reference to the amount of any loss or damage, includes a reference to injury, and
 - (b) a reference to the amount of any loss or damage includes a reference to damages in respect of an injury.
- (6) Where a provision of this Act is inconsistent with a provision of an Act specified in Schedule 1 or prescribed for the purposes of this subsection, or a provision of an instrument made under an Act so specified or prescribed, the provision of the Act so specified or prescribed, or of the instrument, prevails.
- (7) In this Act, a reference to the making of a representation includes a reference to the publishing of a statement.
- (8) In this Act:
- (a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty, and
 - (b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a duty, a reference to the performance of the duty.

5 Meaning of “consumer”

- (1) In this Act, a reference to a consumer is a reference to a person who:
- (a) acquires goods or services from a supplier, or
 - (b) acquires an interest in land, other than land used, or intended to be used, or apparently intended for use, for industrial or commercial purposes.
- (2) Goods or services referred to in subsection (1) do not include goods or services acquired, or held out as being acquired, for re-supply or, in the case of goods, in the course of a business other than a farming undertaking for the purpose of:
- (a) consuming or transforming them by a process of manufacture or production, or
 - (b) using them for the repair or treatment of other goods or of fixtures on land.
- (3) In this section:
- farming undertaking*** includes:

- (a) the raising of stock to provide meat or other food for human consumption, and
- (b) any agricultural, pastoral, horticultural, orcharding or viticultural undertaking.

Part 2 Administrative matters

Division 1 Director-General and staff

6 Control and direction by Minister

The Director-General is, in the exercise of functions as Director-General, subject to the control and direction of the Minister except in relation to the contents of a report or recommendation.

7 Staff of Department

- (1) Such staff as may be necessary to provide for the administration of this Act and any other prescribed Act administered by the Minister shall be appointed and employed under and subject to the *Public Service Act 1979*.
- (2) The Director-General may:
 - (a) with the approval of the Minister and a public authority, and
 - (b) on such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Public Service Board, arrange for the use of the services of any staff, or of any facilities, of the public authority.
- (3) With the approval of the Minister and on such terms and conditions as the Minister thinks fit, the Director-General may, for a particular purpose and otherwise than under a contract of service, appoint and employ any person, body or organisation considered to be capable of providing services, information or advice that would assist in the exercise of the functions of the Director-General.

8 Delegation by Director-General

- (1) The Director-General may delegate to any person or committee the exercise of any of the functions conferred or imposed on the Director-General by or under the following:
 - (a) this Act,
 - (b) *Conveyancers Licensing Act 1995*,
 - (b1) *Fitness Services (Pre-paid Fees) Act 2000*,
 - (c) *Home Building Act 1989*,
 - (d) *Motor Dealers Act 1974*,

- (e) *Motor Vehicle Repairs Act 1980*,
 - (f) *Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 1941*,
 - (g) *Valuers Registration Act 1975*,
 - (h) any other Act administered by the Minister,
 - (i) any other Act prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section (or the prescribed provisions of any other prescribed Act),
 - (j) the regulations under any such Act.
- (2) A delegate of the Director-General may sub-delegate a function if authorised in writing to do so by the Director-General.
- (3) This section does not apply to the functions of the Director-General under section 64A.

9 Functions of the Director-General

- (1) The Director-General may:
- (a) advise persons in relation to the provisions of this Act, and of any other legislation administered by the Minister, and take action for remedying infringements of, or for securing compliance with, those provisions, whether on complaint or otherwise,
 - (b) make available to consumers, and persons dealing with consumers, general information with respect to:
 - (i) this Act and other legislation administered by the Minister, and
 - (ii) matters affecting the interests of consumers,
 - (c) receive complaints from persons on matters (including fraudulent or unfair practices) relating to the supply of goods or services, or the acquisition of interests in land, and deal with any such complaint (whether or not under paragraph (d)) in such manner as the Director-General considers to be appropriate,
 - (d) investigate the matter the subject of a complaint received under paragraph (c) or refer the complaint to a public authority, or any other body, that the Director-General considers to be best able to take action, or provide advice, in relation to the complaint, and
 - (e) make known, for the guidance of consumers and persons dealing with consumers, the rights and obligations arising under laws relating to the interests of consumers.
- (2) The Director-General shall:
- (a) keep under critical examination, and from time to time report to the Minister on,

the laws in force, and other matters, relating to the interests of consumers, and

(b) report to the Minister on matters relating to the interests of consumers that are referred to the Director-General by the Minister,

and, for those purposes, may conduct research and make investigations.

(3) Where a complaint is received under subsection (1) (c), the Director-General may:

(a) investigate the complaint even if it has been referred to a public authority or to another body, or

(b) refer the complaint to a public authority, or any other body, even if an investigation of the matter has been commenced or completed by the Director-General.

10 Exclusion of liability

(1) No liability is incurred by the Crown and no personal liability is incurred by:

(a) the Minister, the Director-General, an investigator or any other officer,

(b) a member of the Products Safety Committee, or

(c) a member of an advisory committee or advisory council,

for any act done or omitted, or for any statement made or issued, by any of them or by a committee or council referred to in paragraph (b) or (c) in good faith in the course of the administration or execution of this Act.

(2) No liability is incurred by a person for publishing in good faith:

(a) a statement referred to in subsection (1), or

(b) a fair report or summary of such a statement.

(3) In this section:

liability includes liability for defamation.

11 Annual report

The annual report of the Department prepared under the [Annual Reports \(Departments\) Act 1985](#) for a financial year shall include a report on the operations of the Director-General during that year.

Division 2 Legal assistance

11A Definition of court

In this Division:

court includes a tribunal.

12 Making of application for legal assistance

- (1) A person who claims to be a consumer and who:
 - (a) wishes to bring legal proceedings (other than criminal proceedings) arising out of the supply to the person of goods or services or the disposal to the person of an interest in land, or
 - (b) wishes to make an appeal or seek judicial review in relation to legal proceedings of a kind referred to in paragraph (a), or
 - (c) is a party to legal proceedings or proceedings relating to an appeal or review referred to in paragraph (a) or (b),may apply to the Director-General for assistance in the conduct of the proceedings.
- (2) An application under subsection (1) shall:
 - (a) be in or to the effect of a form approved by the Director-General,
 - (b) include the particulars required to complete the form, and
 - (c) be verified in the manner required by the Director-General.

13 Grant of legal assistance

- (1) The Director-General may grant an application made under section 12 if:
 - (a) the Director-General is satisfied that the applicant has reasonable grounds for bringing, or being a party to, the proceedings to which the application relates,
 - (b) the Director-General is of the opinion that it is desirable, in the general interests of consumers or of any class of consumers, that assistance should be granted, and
 - (c) (Repealed)
 - (d) the Director-General has received the written approval of the Minister to grant the assistance applied for.
- (2) The Director-General may refuse assistance if of the opinion that it should not be granted because of the applicant's financial position.
- (3) The Director-General shall notify an applicant under section 12 of the grant or refusal of the application and, where an application is granted:
 - (a) the applicant shall not, without the consent of the Director-General, withdraw from the proceedings or discharge any solicitor to whom the case is assigned under section 14, or any barrister or solicitor acting in the proceedings,

- (b) the applicant shall not, except to the extent authorised or required by the Director-General, interfere, or be involved, in the case, and
 - (c) the Director-General has, to the exclusion of the successful applicant, the same control over and the same rights in respect of the case (including the right to settle or compromise any claim arising in the case) as, but for that exclusion, would have been available to the assisted person.
- (4) Assistance granted under this Division does not extend to expenses other than:
- (a) the costs of legal representation, and
 - (b) prescribed expenses.
- (5) Expenses incurred in the provision of assistance under this Division, court fees and any costs required to be met by the Director-General under section 16 shall be met out of money to be provided by Parliament.

14 Assignment to solicitor of case of assisted person

- (1) On granting assistance to a person under section 13, the Director-General shall assign the person's case:
- (a) with the consent of the Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales—to the Chief Executive Officer of that Commission or a member of its staff,
 - (b) to a solicitor employed in the Department,
 - (c) with the consent of the Department Head of another Government Department—to a solicitor employed in that Government Department, or
 - (d) to a solicitor practising on his or her own account who has indicated to the Director-General a willingness to undertake the conduct of the cases of assisted persons,
- and shall give to the assisted person written notification of the relevant particulars of the solicitor to whom the case has been assigned.
- (2) The solicitor to whom a person's case is assigned under this section may, on behalf of the person, appear in any court and conduct any matter or proceeding relating to the case, either personally or, with the consent of the Director-General, by another legal practitioner.
- (3) A solicitor to whom a case has been assigned under this section may not terminate the assignment without the leave of the Director-General.

15 Court proceedings to which assisted person is a party

- (1) If proceedings have been brought in a case to which a solicitor has been assigned

under section 14, the solicitor shall, as soon as practicable after the assignment and before taking any other step in the proceedings:

(a) serve on the other party or parties to the proceedings, and

(b) file in the court in which the proceedings are pending,

a notice to the effect that he or she is undertaking the conduct of the case.

(2) If a notice is filed under subsection (1):

(a) the proceedings are stayed for a period of 14 days, and

(b) unless otherwise ordered by the court—time fixed for the doing of any act or taking any step in the proceedings does not run during that period.

(3) The filing of a notice under subsection (1) does not prevent:

(a) the making of any interlocutory order which, in the opinion of the court, is necessary to prevent injustice, or

(b) unless otherwise ordered by the court, the institution or continuance of proceedings to obtain, enforce or otherwise carry into effect any such order.

(4) The period during which proceedings are stayed by subsection (2) may be reduced or extended by order of the court.

(5) A fee is not payable for the filing of a notice under subsection (1).

(6) If, in proceedings for which a person has been granted assistance under section 13:

(a) a party makes a counterclaim, or pleads a set-off, and

(b) the counterclaim or set-off does not relate to the supply of goods or services, or the disposal of an interest in land, to the assisted person,

the court may, on the application of the Director-General, order that the counterclaim or set-off be dealt with separately, and may make such other orders or give such directions as it thinks fit.

16 Costs and expenses etc relating to proceedings to which assisted person is a party

(1) If a person is granted assistance under section 13, the court shall, in making an order for costs:

(a) in favour of the assisted person—make the same order (except against another assisted person) as the court would have made in favour of the assisted person if the person had not been an assisted person, or

(b) against the assisted person—make the same order (except in favour of another

assisted person) as the court would have made against the assisted person if the person had not been an assisted person.

- (2) If an order for costs is made in accordance with subsection (1) (a):
 - (a) the costs are payable to the Director-General instead of the person in whose favour the order is made,
 - (b) the costs may be recovered by the Director-General as a debt due to the Crown, and
 - (c) the costs, upon being paid to or recovered by the Director-General, shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.
- (3) If an order for costs is made in accordance with subsection (1) (b), the costs shall be paid by the Director-General.
- (4) Except in the case of costs payable to the Director-General, money awarded by a court in favour of an assisted person is payable to the person without deduction.

17 Privilege attaching to certain relationships

The same privileges as those which arise from the relationship of client and solicitor acting in his or her professional capacity and in the course of his or her professional employment arise from the relationship between:

- (a) a person who has applied for assistance under section 12 or who has been granted that assistance under section 13, and
- (b) the Director-General and the solicitor (if any) to whom the person's case is assigned under section 14,

and from the relationship between the Director-General and the solicitor.

Division 3 Investigators

18 Office and identification of investigator

- (1) The Director-General may, by order in writing, appoint an officer as an investigator for the purposes of this Act and of any other legislation administered by the Minister and shall provide the officer with a certificate of identification as an investigator.
- (2) An investigator who exercises in any place or on any land a function conferred by section 19 or 20 shall produce his or her certificate of identification if requested so to do by a person apparently in charge there, or apparently in charge of any work being carried on there.
- (3) An investigator shall produce his or her certificate of identification if requested so to do by a person required to comply with a notice under section 20.

- (4) A requirement under any other legislation administered by the Minister that a person who is authorised to exercise a function under the legislation is to produce his or her certificate of identification (however described) before exercising the function is taken to have been complied with if:
 - (a) the person authorised is an investigator, and
 - (b) the person produces his or her certificate of identification as an investigator.

19 Powers of entry

- (1) The powers conferred by this section may be exercised for the purposes of this Act and any other legislation administered by the Minister but may not be exercised for any other purpose.
- (2) The power to enter a place or land conferred by this section does not include a power to enter a place that is a dwelling-house or other residential premises unless:
 - (a) the occupier consents, or
 - (b) some manufacture, business or trade is carried on there.
- (3) An investigator may, at a reasonable time, enter any place that he or she believes on reasonable grounds to be a place where goods are manufactured, prepared or supplied or a place where services are supplied or arranged and:
 - (a) inspect any goods or partly manufactured goods and make such other inspections as he or she considers to be necessary,
 - (b) take any goods, or partly manufactured goods, for which he or she pays a fair price,
 - (c) take a sample of anything from which goods are manufactured or produced in that place, or
 - (d) make inquiries of any person employed or engaged in that place.
- (4) If the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that there are on any premises documents evidencing conduct in contravention of this Act or any other legislation administered by the Minister, an investigator may, with the written authority of the Director-General, enter the premises, inspect any documents and make copies of them or take extracts from them.
- (5) An investigator may:
 - (a) at a reasonable time:
 - (i) enter any place that he or she believes on reasonable grounds to be a place where transactions involving the disposal of interests in land are effected, or

- (ii) enter any land if he or she believes on reasonable grounds that an interest in the land is being, or is proposed to be, disposed of,
- (b) inspect any documents that are in the place and relate to an interest in land or are on the land and relate to the disposal of an interest in the land, and
- (c) make inquiries of any person employed or engaged in the place or on the land.

20 Power to obtain information, documents and evidence

- (1) This section applies only to a person who is, on reasonable grounds, believed by the Director-General to be capable of giving information, producing documents or giving evidence in relation to:
 - (a) a possible contravention of this Act or any other legislation administered by the Minister, or
 - (b) a matter that may lead to the reference of a question to the Products Safety Committee or an advisory committee.
- (2) An investigator may, by notice in writing served on a person to whom this section applies, require the person:
 - (a) to give an investigator, by writing signed by the person (or, in the case of a body corporate, by a competent officer of the body corporate) and within the time and in the manner specified in the notice, any information referred to in subsection (1) of which the person has knowledge,
 - (b) to produce to an investigator, in accordance with the notice, any documents referred to in subsection (1), or
 - (c) to appear before an investigator, the Director-General or an authorised person at a time and place specified in the notice and give either orally or in writing any evidence referred to in subsection (1) and produce any documents so referred to.
- (3) A person shall not:
 - (a) refuse or fail to comply with a notice under this section to the extent that the person is capable of complying with it, or
 - (b) in purported compliance with such a notice, knowingly give information or produce a document, or give evidence, that is false or misleading.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (4) A person is not excused from giving information or producing a document, or from giving evidence, in response to a notice under this section on the ground that the information, document or evidence may tend to incriminate the person.

- (5) Any information, document or evidence obtained from a person in response to a notice under this section is inadmissible against the person in criminal proceedings other than proceedings for a contravention of subsection (3).

21 Inspection of documents by Director-General and others

- (1) The Director-General, an authorised person or an investigator may inspect a document produced in response to a notice under section 20 or 23A and may make copies of, or take extracts from, the document.
- (2) The Director-General or an investigator may:
 - (a) take possession, and
 - (b) retain possession for as long as is necessary for the purposes of this Act, of a document produced in response to a notice under section 20 or 23A if the person otherwise entitled to possession of the document is supplied, as soon as practicable, with a copy certified by an officer to be a true copy.
- (3) A certified copy provided under subsection (2) is receivable in all courts as if it were the original.
- (4) Until a certified copy of a document is provided under subsection (2), the person having possession of the document shall, at such times and places as he or she thinks appropriate, permit the person otherwise entitled to possession of the document, or a person authorised by the person so entitled, to inspect the document and make copies of, or take extracts from, the document.

22 Preservation of secrecy

- (1) Except as provided by subsection (4), a person engaged in the administration of this Act shall not:
 - (a) in the course of that administration, disclose to another person so engaged any information or evidence given, or the contents of any document produced, in response to a notice under section 20 or 23A without informing the other person that the information or evidence was so given, or the document so produced, or
 - (b) otherwise than in the course of that administration, disclose any such information, evidence or contents to any person without the written permission of the Minister given in relation to the disclosure.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (2) A person who was, but is no longer, engaged in the administration of this Act shall not, without the written permission of the Minister, disclose to any other person any information or evidence given, or the contents of any document produced, in response

to a notice under section 20 or 23A that came to his or her knowledge in the course of that administration.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (3) The Minister may grant the permission referred to in subsection (1) or (2) only if the Minister is satisfied that to do so would be in the public interest.
- (4) It is not a contravention of subsection (1) or (2):
 - (a) if the Director-General communicates to the appropriate Minister or officer of the Crown in right of this or any other State, or of the Commonwealth or any of its Territories, any information or evidence given, or the contents of any document produced, in response to a notice under section 20 or 23A, or
 - (b) if, in any legal proceedings, a person discloses any such information, evidence or contents in answering a question that the person is compellable to answer in those proceedings.

23 Obstruction etc of officers

- (1) A person shall not:
 - (a) hinder or obstruct an officer in a manner that interferes with the performance by the officer of his or her duties,
 - (b) assault an officer performing his or her duties, or
 - (c) being the occupier or person in charge of any place or land entered by an officer under a power conferred by this Act, fail to provide the officer with all reasonable facilities and assistance for the effective exercise of the officer's powers under this Act.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months, or both.

- (2) The reference in subsection (1) to an officer is a reference to any officer and is not limited to an officer who is an investigator.

Division 3A Substantiation of claims and representations

23A Power to require substantiation of claims and representations

- (1) The Director-General may require a person who, in trade or commerce, published or caused to be published a statement promoting, or apparently intended to promote, the supply of goods or services or the sale or grant of an interest in land, to substantiate a claim or representation (express or implied) made in the statement.
- (2) Such a requirement is to be made by notice in writing served on the person.

- (3) The notice must:
 - (a) indicate the claim or representation to which the notice applies, and
 - (b) require compliance with the notice within a specified time, and
 - (c) indicate what the person must do to comply with the notice (as provided by subsection (4)), and
 - (d) indicate that it is an offence to fail to comply with the notice within the required time.
- (4) To comply with the notice, the person must within the time required by the notice:
 - (a) reply in writing to the Director-General stating whether or not the person can provide information substantiating the claim or representation concerned, and
 - (b) provide to the Director-General such information substantiating the claim or representation as the person is reasonably able to provide.
- (5) The Director-General may, by a further notice in writing served on the person, extend or further extend the time within which the notice must be complied with.

23B Implied representation that goods or services will be able to be supplied at advertised price

- (1) When a person, in trade or commerce, publishes or causes to be published a statement advertising goods or services for supply at a specified price, the statement is taken to include a representation that the person will be able to offer the goods or services for supply at the advertised price for a period that is, and in quantities that are, reasonable having regard to the nature of the market in which the person carries on business and the nature of the advertisement.
- (2) Accordingly, a notice under section 23A can relate to such a representation.
- (3) The representation applies only for the purposes of this Division.
- (4) The claims and representations to which a notice under section 23A can apply are not limited by this section.

23C Offence of failing to comply with notice

- (1) A person who fails to comply with a notice under section 23A is guilty of an offence.
Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.
- (2) A person who, in purported compliance with a notice under section 23A, provides any information to the Director-General that is false or misleading in a material particular is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (3) It is a defence to a prosecution under subsection (2) if the defendant proves that the defendant did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the information was false or misleading.

23D Self incrimination

- (1) A person is not excused from providing information in compliance with a notice under section 23A on the ground that the information may tend to incriminate the person.
- (2) Any information provided by a person (whether a natural person or a corporation) in compliance with a notice under section 23A is inadmissible in criminal proceedings against the person other than proceedings for an offence under this Division.

23E Division does not prevent other action being taken

This Division does not prevent action being taken under any other provision of this Act or any other law in relation to a claim or representation made in a published statement.

23F Certain publishers not affected

This Division does not apply to a person whose business it is to publish or arrange for the publication of advertisements in respect of the publication of a statement by the person that was received for publication in the ordinary course of that business.

23G Transitional

This Division does not apply to any statement published before the commencement of this Division.

Division 4 Products Safety Committee and advisory committees

24 Products Safety Committee

- (1) There shall be established a Products Safety Committee having the functions conferred or imposed on it by this Act.
- (2) The Products Safety Committee shall consist of:
 - (a) an officer appointed by the Minister as Chairperson of the Committee,
 - (b) an officer appointed by the Minister as Executive Officer of the Committee, and
 - (c) such other persons appointed by the Minister as, in the opinion of the Minister, have expertise in product safety.
- (3) If the Chairperson is unable to exercise the functions of Chairperson, they shall be exercised by an officer appointed by the Minister as acting Chairperson.

(4) The provisions of Schedule 4 apply in relation to the Products Safety Committee.

25 Advisory committees

- (1) The Minister may appoint committees for the purpose of advising the Director-General in relation to matters arising under section 9 (2).
- (2) An advisory committee:
 - (a) shall comprise such number of persons as the Minister thinks fit,
 - (b) may include an officer or officers,
 - (c) has such functions in relation to the provision of advice as the Minister directs, and
 - (d) may, except to the extent that the Minister otherwise directs, regulate its own procedure for the calling of meetings and the conduct of its business at those meetings.
- (3) The Minister may, at any time:
 - (a) terminate the appointment of a person as a member of an advisory committee, or
 - (b) dissolve an advisory committee.
- (4) A member of an advisory committee:
 - (a) is entitled to receive such travelling expenses, and
 - (b) except in the case of an officer, is entitled to receive such fees for attending meetings and transacting business of the committee,as are fixed by the Minister.

Division 5 Fair Trading Advisory Council

25A Establishment

There is established by this Act a council called the Fair Trading Advisory Council.

25B Membership

- (1) The Fair Trading Advisory Council is to consist of 16 members.
- (2) The members of the Fair Trading Advisory Council are:
 - (a) the Director-General or a nominee of the Director-General, and
 - (b) 15 persons appointed by the Minister and having, in the opinion of the Minister, expertise or qualifications appropriate to its functions (as consumer or industry representatives or otherwise).

- (3) Schedule 4A has effect with respect to the members and procedure of the Fair Trading Advisory Council.

25C Functions

The functions of the Fair Trading Advisory Council are to furnish advice to the Minister:

- (a) as to such fair trading and consumer protection issues as it thinks fit or as are referred to it by the Minister, and
- (b) in particular, as to any issues relevant to any legislation administered by the Minister (including issues about which any other advisory committee or advisory council has functions).

Division 6 Motor Trade Advisory Council

25D Establishment

There is established by this Act a council called the Motor Trade Advisory Council.

25E Membership

- (1) The Motor Trade Advisory Council is to consist of 16 members.
- (2) The members of the Motor Trade Advisory Council are:
- (a) the Director-General or a nominee of the Director-General, and
- (b) 15 other persons appointed by the Minister and having, in the opinion of the Minister, expertise appropriate to its functions (as consumer or industry representatives or otherwise).
- (3) Schedule 4A has effect with respect to the members and procedure of the Motor Trade Advisory Council.

25F Functions

- (1) The functions of the Motor Trade Advisory Council are to furnish advice to the Minister:
- (a) as to any issues relevant to the motor trade as it thinks fit or as are referred to it by the Minister, and
- (b) in particular:
- (i) as to the development of policy relating to the motor trade, and
- (ii) as to any issues relevant to any legislation administered by the Minister for Fair Trading and relating to the motor trade, and
- (iii) as to education or research programs relating to the motor trade, that are or might be government funded.

(2) In this section:

motor trade means the industry of trading motor vehicles and the motor vehicle repair and maintenance industry.

motor vehicle means any motor car, motor carriage, motor cycle or other vehicle propelled wholly or partly by any volatile spirit, steam, gas, oil or electricity, and includes a trailer, but does not include:

- (a) a vehicle used on a railway or tramway, or
- (b) a vehicle that is constructed or adapted otherwise than for the carriage of passengers or goods over public roads, or
- (c) anything prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

Division 7 Property Services Advisory Council

25G Establishment

There is established by this Act a council called the Property Services Advisory Council.

25H Membership

- (1) The Property Services Advisory Council is to consist of 16 members.
- (2) The members of the Property Services Advisory Council are:
 - (a) the Director-General or a nominee of the Director-General, and
 - (b) 15 persons appointed by the Minister and having, in the opinion of the Minister, expertise appropriate to its functions (as consumer or industry representatives or otherwise).
- (3) Schedule 4A has effect with respect to the members and procedure of the Property Services Advisory Council.

25I Functions

- (1) The functions of the Property Services Advisory Council are to furnish advice to the Minister:
 - (a) as to such issues relating to the property services industry as it thinks fit or as are referred to it by the Minister, and
 - (b) in particular:
 - (i) as to any issues relevant to any legislation administered by the Minister for Fair Trading and relating to the property services industry, and
 - (ii) as to education or research programs relating to the property services

industry, that are or might be government funded.

(2) In this section:

property services industry includes:

- (a) the business of selling, managing, valuing or otherwise dealing with property (including businesses) that is subject to licensing, registration or regulation under the *Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 1941* or the *Valuers Registration Act 1975*, or
- (b) the carrying out of conveyancing work as defined by the *Conveyancers Licensing Act 1995*,

and includes anything prescribed by the regulations as being within this definition, but does not include anything prescribed as excluded from it.

Division 8 Home Building Advisory Council

25J Establishment

There is established by this Act a council called the Home Building Advisory Council.

25K Membership

- (1) The Home Building Advisory Council is to consist of 16 members.
- (2) The members of the Home Building Advisory Council are:
 - (a) the Director-General or a nominee of the Director-General, and
 - (b) 15 persons appointed by the Minister and having, in the opinion of the Minister, expertise appropriate to its functions (as consumer or industry representatives or otherwise).
- (3) Schedule 4A has effect with respect to the members and procedure of the Home Building Advisory Council.

25L Functions

The functions of the Home Building Advisory Council are to advise the Minister on such consumer-related issues relating to the home building industry, including the provision of funding for education and research, as it thinks fit or as are referred to it by the Minister.

Division 9 Retirement Villages Advisory Council

25M Establishment

There is established by this Act a council called the Retirement Villages Advisory Council.

25N Membership

- (1) The Retirement Villages Advisory Council is to consist of 16 members.
- (2) The members of the Retirement Villages Advisory Council are:
 - (a) the Director-General or a nominee of the Director-General, and
 - (b) 15 persons appointed by the Minister and having, in the opinion of the Minister, expertise appropriate to its functions (as consumer or industry representatives or otherwise).
- (3) Schedule 4A has effect with respect to the members and procedure of the Retirement Villages Advisory Council.

25O Functions

- (1) The functions of the Retirement Villages Advisory Council are to advise the Minister:
 - (a) as to such issues relating to retirement villages as it thinks fit or as are referred to it by the Minister, and
 - (b) in particular:
 - (i) as to the development of policy relating to retirement villages and the retirement village industry, and
 - (ii) as to any issues relevant to any legislation administered by the Minister for Fair Trading and relating to retirement villages or the retirement village industry.

- (2) In this section:

retirement village has the same meaning as it has in the [Retirement Villages Act 1999](#).

retirement village industry includes:

- (a) the businesses of designing, developing, managing, operating and providing services to retirement villages, and
- (b) any other business prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition,

but does not include any business declared by the regulations to be excluded from this definition.

Part 3 Safe design and construction of goods

Division 1 Safety standards

26 Safety standards

- (1) The regulations may prescribe a product safety standard for a specified kind of goods.
- (2) A product safety standard for goods shall consist of such requirements as to:
 - (a) performance, composition, contents, methods of manufacture or processing, design, construction, finish or packaging of the goods,
 - (b) the testing of the goods during, or after the completion of, manufacture or processing,
 - (c) the form and content of markings, warnings or instructions to accompany the goods or be placed on a vending machine for the goods or a display stand or sign adjacent to the goods, and
 - (d) equipment or accessories to be supplied with the goods,as are reasonably necessary to prevent or reduce risk of injury to a person.

27 Prohibition on supply of goods not complying with safety standards (TPA s 65C)

- (1) A person shall not, in trade or commerce, supply goods:
 - (a) that are intended to be used, or are of a kind likely to be used, by a consumer, and
 - (b) in relation to which there is a product safety standard,unless the goods comply with the standard.
- (2) If:
 - (a) a person supplies goods in contravention of subsection (1), and
 - (b) another person suffers loss or damage because of a defect in, or a dangerous characteristic of, the goods, or by not having particular information in relation to the goods, but would not have suffered it if the goods had complied with the product safety standard,the person who suffers the loss or damage shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to have suffered it by the supplying of the goods.

Division 2 Prohibition or restriction on supply of dangerous goods

28 Reference of certain questions to Products Safety Committee

- (1) The Minister, or the Director-General with the approval of the Minister, may refer to the Products Safety Committee for consideration either or both of the prescribed questions in relation to goods of a kind specified in the reference or any particular goods so specified.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to goods the supply of which is prohibited or regulated by or under an Act specified in Schedule 2 or an Act prescribed for the purposes of this subsection.
- (3) The prescribed questions referred to in subsection (1) are:
 - (a) the question whether the supply of the goods should, because they are dangerous, or are a possible source of danger, be prohibited or should be allowed only subject to conditions or restrictions to be specified by the Committee, and
 - (b) the question whether the goods should be the subject of a recall order under Division 3.
- (4) The Minister may, upon a question being referred under subsection (1), cause particulars of the question to be notified to the public in such manner as the Minister thinks fit.
- (5) The Committee shall consider each question referred to it and make a report and recommendations to the Minister in relation to the question.
- (6) Even if the Committee has not completed consideration of a question, it may, in the interests of public safety, recommend to the Minister the making under section 30 of an interim order prohibiting or restricting supply of the goods to which the question relates.
- (7) The Director-General shall, if requested to do so by the Committee, give to the Committee to enable it to consider a question referred to it:
 - (a) any information in the possession of the Director-General which relates to the question, and
 - (b) any other assistance which the Committee may require, and which the Director-General has power to give, in relation to the question.
- (8) If a member of the Committee dissents from a decision of the Committee in respect of a question referred to it, the Chairperson shall record in the report a note of that dissent and of any reasons for it.
- (9) The Committee, in considering a question referred to it:

- (a) may make such investigations as it considers necessary to enable it to make a recommendation with respect to the question,
 - (b) shall take into account any representations made to it by any person who, in its opinion, has a substantial interest in the subject-matter of the question or by any body which, in its opinion, represents a substantial number of persons who have such an interest, and
 - (c) unless the Committee does not consider that it is reasonably practicable to do so, shall permit any such person or body to be heard by the Committee, or by a member of the Committee nominated by it for the purpose.
- (10) The Committee may determine its own procedure for considering a question referred to it, and in particular may determine:
- (a) the extent, if any, to which persons interested or claiming to be interested in the question are allowed to be present or to be heard, either by themselves or by their representatives, or to cross-examine witnesses or otherwise participate in the consideration of the question, and
 - (b) the extent, if any, to which the Committee shall hold its proceedings in public.
- (11) In determining its procedure under subsection (10), the Committee shall act in accordance with Schedule 4 and any general directions which may be given it by the Minister.

29 Attendance of witnesses and production of documents

- (1) For the purpose of considering a question referred to it, the Products Safety Committee may, by notice in writing signed by the Chairperson or by a member of the Committee on behalf of the Chairperson:
- (a) require any person to attend at a time and place specified in the notice and to give evidence before the Committee or a member of the Committee nominated by it for the purpose, or
 - (b) require any person to produce, at a time and place specified in the notice, to the Committee or to a member of the Committee nominated by it for the purpose, any goods or documents described in the notice that are in the custody, or under the control, of the person and are relevant to the question.
- (2) The Products Safety Committee may take goods so produced, after paying a fair price for them, and cause to be conducted such tests and examinations with respect to them as it considers necessary for the purpose of determining whether or not they may be dangerous.
- (3) A person is not compellable to give any evidence before, or produce any document to, the Products Safety Committee which the person could not be compelled to give or

produce in civil proceedings before the Supreme Court.

- (4) A person is not required to attend in response to a notice under subsection (1) (a) unless the reasonable expenses of attendance are paid or tendered to the person.
- (5) A person shall not:
 - (a) without reasonable excuse, refuse or fail to do anything required of the person by a notice under subsection (1),
 - (b) in response to such a notice, knowingly give evidence that is false or misleading because it includes false or misleading matter or omits material matter, or
 - (c) alter, suppress or destroy any document which the person is required by such a notice to produce.

Maximum penalty (subsection (5)): 20 penalty units.

30 Interim order prohibiting or restricting the supply of goods

- (1) The Minister may make an interim order conditionally or unconditionally prohibiting or restricting the supply of specified goods or of goods of a specified kind if:
 - (a) the Minister or the Director-General has referred, or proposes to refer, to the Products Safety Committee a question relating to the goods,
 - (b) the Products Safety Committee recommends the making of such an order before completing its consideration of a question referred to it in relation to the goods, or
 - (c) if the supply or use of the goods has been prohibited or restricted on an interim basis under another law of the State, a law of the Commonwealth or a law in force elsewhere in Australia, in the interests of public safety,

and the Minister considers that the goods are so dangerous that their supply should, in the interests of public safety, be prohibited or restricted immediately.

- (2) If an interim order is made under subsection (1), the Minister may:
 - (a) give a supplier written notice of the order,
 - (b) publish notice of the order in the Gazette, or
 - (c) do both.
- (3) If notice of an interim order:
 - (a) has not been published in the Gazette and is given to a supplier—the order takes effect when the notice is given to the supplier and, unless sooner revoked, expires 42 days later, or

(b) is published in the Gazette (whether or not it has been, or is then or later, given to a supplier)—the order takes effect upon its publication and, unless sooner revoked, expires on a day specified in the Gazette notice that is not less than 42 days, and not more than 3 months, after its publication.

(4) After being renewed once, an interim order may be replaced only by an order made under section 31 before the interim order expires or is revoked.

(5) An order made under section 31 revokes an interim order that it replaces.

31 Order (other than interim order) prohibiting or restricting the supply of goods

(1) The Minister may make a conditional or unconditional order prohibiting or restricting the supply of specified goods or goods of a specified kind:

(a) after considering a report and any recommendation of the Products Safety Committee relating to the goods,

(b) after considering a report of an authority of the State relating to the goods and deciding to make the order without referring a question to the Products Safety Committee, or

(c) if a like prohibition or restriction is in force under another law of the State, a law of the Commonwealth or a law in force elsewhere in Australia because the goods are dangerous.

(2) Sections 39, 40 and 41 of the *Interpretation Act 1987* apply to an order made under subsection (1) as if it were a statutory rule to which those sections apply.

Editorial note—

For orders under this section see the Historical notes at the end of this Act.

32 Offence to contravene certain orders

(1) A person shall not supply goods in contravention of an order in force under section 30 of which the person has been given notice.

(2) A person shall not supply goods in contravention of an order published in the Gazette and in force under section 30 or 31.

(3) If:

(a) a person supplies goods in contravention of subsection (1) or (2), and

(b) another person suffers loss or damage because of a defect in, or a dangerous characteristic of, the goods or by not having particular information as to a characteristic of the goods,

the person who suffers the loss or damage shall be deemed, for the purposes of this

Act, to have suffered it by the supplying of the goods.

33 Remedy for supply of goods etc in contravention of Act or order

(1) If:

- (a) goods are supplied to a person in contravention of section 27, or
- (b) goods are supplied to a person and the supply of the goods is an offence under section 32 (whether or not there has been a conviction for the offence),

the person may recover from the supplier as a debt any money paid for the goods.

(2) If judgment is given for the plaintiff in an action under subsection (1), the judgment debt may, if the court so directs, be satisfied by repair or modification of the goods in such a manner that:

- (a) the contravention relied on by the plaintiff would not have occurred if the goods had been supplied as repaired or modified, or
- (b) the repaired or modified goods are accepted by the plaintiff on or before a day specified in the direction.

Division 3 Product recall etc

34 Recall etc of defective goods

(1) In this section:

defect, in relation to goods, includes a dangerous characteristic of the goods.

defective goods means goods that:

- (a) do not comply with a product safety standard for the goods,
- (b) are the subject of a question referred to the Products Safety Committee or are proposed by the Minister or the Director-General to be the subject of such a question,
- (c) are the subject of a report of the Products Safety Committee on a question referred to it, or
- (d) are the subject of a banning order.

(2) The Minister may make an order requiring a supplier of defective goods to do any one or more of the following:

- (a) recall the goods in the manner, and within the period, specified in the order,
- (b) disclose to the public, or to a class of persons specified in the order, in the manner and within the period so specified, one or more of the following:

- (i) the nature of any defect in the goods identified in the order,
 - (ii) the circumstances in which the use of the goods is dangerous, or
 - (iii) procedures for disposing of the goods,
- (c) notify the public, or a class of persons so specified, in the manner and within the period specified in the order, that the supplier undertakes to do whichever of the following the supplier thinks is appropriate:
- (i) except where the order identifies a dangerous characteristic of the goods—repair the goods,
 - (ii) replace the goods,
 - (iii) refund to a person to whom the goods were supplied (whether by the supplier or by another person) the price of the goods,

within the period specified in the order.

- (3) If an order so provides, where:
- (a) the supplier undertakes to refund the price of the goods, and
 - (b) a period of more than 12 months has elapsed since a person (whether or not the person to whom the refund is to be made) acquired the goods from the supplier,
- the amount of the refund may be reduced by an amount that is attributable to the use which a person has had of the goods and is calculated as specified in the order.
- (4) Sections 40 and 41 of the *Interpretation Act 1987* apply to an order made under subsection (2) as if it were a statutory rule to which those sections apply.
- (5) If a supplier undertakes to repair goods, the supplier shall cause the goods to be repaired so that:
- (a) any defect in the goods identified in the order is remedied, and
 - (b) if there is a product safety standard for goods of that kind—the goods comply with the standard.
- (6) If a supplier undertakes to replace goods, the supplier shall replace the goods with like goods which:
- (a) if a defect in the goods to be replaced was identified in the order—do not contain that defect, and
 - (b) if there is a product safety standard for goods of that kind—comply with that standard.

- (7) If a supplier undertakes to repair goods or replace goods, the cost of the repair or replacement, including any necessary transportation costs, shall be borne by the supplier.
- (8) While an order made under subsection (2) is in force, a supplier of goods to which the order relates shall not:
- (a) fail to comply with a requirement of, or a direction in, the order,
 - (b) where the order identifies a defect in the goods—supply goods of the kind to which the order relates and which contain that defect,
 - (c) in a case other than a case referred to in paragraph (b)—supply goods of the kind to which the order relates,
 - (d) fail to carry out an undertaking notified by the supplier under subsection (2), or
 - (e) having given such an undertaking to repair or replace goods—fail to comply with subsection (5), (6) or (7), where applicable.
- (9) Where goods are recalled, whether voluntarily or in accordance with an order of the Minister under subsection (2), a person who has supplied or supplies any of the recalled goods to another person outside New South Wales shall, as soon as practicable after the supply of those goods, give a notice in writing to that other person:
- (a) stating that the goods are subject to recall,
 - (b) if the goods have a defect—stating the nature of the defect, and
 - (c) if the goods do not comply with a product safety standard for the goods—setting out the nature of the non-compliance.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units in the case of a corporation or 20 penalty units in any other case.

- (10) A supplier who voluntarily takes action to recall goods shall, not later than 2 days after that action is taken, give to the Director-General a notice in writing:
- (a) stating that the goods are subject to recall,
 - (b) if the goods have a defect—stating the nature of the defect, and
 - (c) if the goods do not comply with a product safety standard for the goods—stating the nature of the non-compliance.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units in the case of a corporation or 20 penalty units in any other case.

- (11) It is a sufficient compliance with subsection (10) if a copy notice relating to the goods is given under section 65R of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* of the Commonwealth.

35 Conferences relating to compulsory product recall

- (1) If the Minister:
- (a) makes in conjunction with a banning order under section 30 any order under section 34 relating to goods the subject of the banning order, or
 - (b) has under consideration a draft of any order under section 34 that is not proposed to be made in conjunction with a banning order under section 30,
- the Minister shall cause to be published in the Gazette a notice that complies with subsection (2) in relation to the order or draft order.
- (2) A notice relating to an order or draft order complies with this subsection if it specifies:
- (a) that a supplier of the goods to which the order or draft order relates may, before a day specified in the notice (being a day that is not earlier than 10 days after publication of the notice) lodge with the Products Safety Committee a request for a conference with the Committee, and
 - (b) in the case of a draft order—the terms of the draft order and a summary of the reasons why it is under consideration.
- (3) Where the Minister causes to be published in the Gazette a notice under subsection (1), the Director-General shall, within 2 days after its publication or, if it is not practicable to do so within that period, as soon as practicable after the end of that period, either:
- (a) cause a copy of the notice to be given to each person who, to the knowledge of the Director-General, supplies goods to which the notice relates, or
 - (b) cause a copy of the notice to be published in a newspaper circulating in each part of the State where goods to which the notice relates are, to the knowledge of the Director-General, supplied.
- (4) Any failure to comply with subsection (3) in relation to a notice does not invalidate the notice.
- (5) The Committee may allow further time for the lodging of a request for a conference and shall:
- (a) where no request for a conference has been duly lodged inform the Minister accordingly, or
 - (b) where a request for a conference has been duly lodged—notify the Minister, and

each supplier who has duly requested the conference, of the time and place for the holding of the conference, being a time not later than 14 days after the expiration of the time for lodging a request for the conference.

- (6) If a conference is held:
- (a) the Committee shall be represented by a member nominated by the Chairperson,
 - (b) each supplier who has duly requested the conference, and any other person whose presence at the conference is considered by the Committee to be appropriate, is entitled to be present or be represented, and
 - (c) the Minister or a person or persons nominated in writing by the Minister is or are entitled to be present.
- (7) A person in attendance at the conference may:
- (a) inspect documents in the possession of the member representing the Committee that relate to the goods to which the order or draft order relates (not being documents specifying a secret formula or process), and
 - (b) be heard by, and make submissions to, the member representing the Committee with respect to the order or draft order.
- (8) The member representing the Committee shall keep a record of proceedings at a conference under this section.
- (9) After a conference is held, the Committee shall:
- (a) where the conference related to a draft order—make a written recommendation to the Minister as to whether the Minister should:
 - (i) publish an order in terms of the draft order,
 - (ii) publish an order in terms of the draft order with amendments, or
 - (iii) refrain from publishing an order affecting the goods to which the draft order relates, or
 - (b) where the conference related to a published order—make a written recommendation to the Minister as to whether the order should remain in force, be varied or be revoked.
- (10) The Committee shall cause a copy of a recommendation made under subsection (9) to be given to each supplier who was present or represented at the conference.
- (11) The Minister is not bound by a recommendation under subsection (9) but, if the Minister decides not to act in accordance with the recommendation, he or she shall publish in the Gazette the reasons for that decision.

36 Certain amounts recoverable as debt or damages

- (1) If a supplier fails to carry out an undertaking given under section 34 to refund the price of goods, the amount that should have been refunded is recoverable as a debt due by the supplier to the person to whom the undertaking was given.
- (2) If a supplier fails to carry out an undertaking under section 34 to repair or replace goods, the supplier shall be deemed to have given instead an undertaking, notified under section 34, to refund the price of the goods within the period specified for the repair or replacement of the goods.
- (3) If:
 - (a) a person fails to comply with any requirement of an order made under section 34 or supplies goods in contravention of such an order disclosing a defect in, or dangerous characteristic of, the goods, and
 - (b) another person suffers loss or damage because of a defect in, or a dangerous characteristic of, the goods or by not having particular information as to a characteristic of the goods,

the person who suffered the loss or damage shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to have suffered it because of the failure or contravention.

37 Certain action not to affect insurance contracts (TPA s 65T)

The liability of an insurer under a contract of insurance with a person, being a contract relating to the recall of goods supplied or proposed to be supplied by the person or to the liability of the person with respect to possible defects in goods supplied or proposed to be supplied by the person, shall not be affected only because the person gives to the Minister, to the Products Safety Committee or to an officer information relating to any goods supplied or proposed to be supplied by the person.

Part 4 Consumer protection

Division 1 Product information

38 Prescribing of product information standards

- (1) The regulations may prescribe a product information standard to be used for a specified kind of goods.
- (2) A product information standard for goods shall consist of requirements for, and for the form and manner of, disclosure of such information as to:
 - (a) the price, performance, composition, contents, methods of manufacture or processing, design, construction, finish or packaging of the goods,

- (b) the place of manufacture or production of the goods,
- (c) the identity of the manufacturer, producer or supplier of the goods,
- (d) the date of the manufacture or production, or the durable life, of the goods, and
- (e) care and storage of the goods,

as is reasonably necessary to give persons using the goods information as to their origin, quantity, quality, nature, durability or value.

39 Compliance with product information standard

(1) A person shall not, in trade or commerce, supply goods:

- (a) that are intended to be used, or are of a kind likely to be used, by a consumer, and
- (b) in relation to which there is a product information standard,

unless the person has complied with the standard in relation to the goods.

(2) If:

- (a) a person supplies goods in contravention of subsection (1), and
- (b) another person suffers loss or damage by not having particular information relating to the goods but would not have suffered it if the product information standard had been complied with in relation to the goods,

the person who suffers the loss or damage shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to have suffered it by the supplying of the goods.

Division 2 Dual pricing

40 Dual pricing

(1) A supplier shall not sell goods to which more than one price is appended at a price that is greater than the lower, or lowest, of the prices.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

(2) In subsection (1), a reference to a price appended to goods includes a reference to a price:

- (a) that is annexed or affixed to, or is written, printed, stamped or located on, or otherwise applied to, the goods or any band, ticket, covering, label, reel or thing used in connection with the goods,
- (b) that is used in connection with the goods or anything on which the goods are

mounted for display or exposed for sale,

(c) that is determined on the basis of anything encoded on or in relation to the goods,

(d) that is published in relation to the goods in a catalogue available to the public if:

(i) a time is specified in the catalogue as the time after which the goods will not be sold at that price and that time has not passed, or

(ii) in any other case—the catalogue may reasonably be regarded as not out-of-date, or

(e) that is in any other way represented in a manner from which it may reasonably be inferred that the price represented is a price applicable to the goods.

(3) Where a price appended to goods is written, stamped or located wholly or partly over another price, or other prices, appended to the goods, all the prices are, for the purposes of subsection (1), prices appended to the goods.

(4) In this section:

price includes any representation that may reasonably be inferred to be a representation of a price and does not include an amount expressed in a currency other than Australian currency.

Part 5 Fair trading

41 Interpretation (TPA s 51A)

(1) For the purposes of this Part, where a person makes a representation with respect to any future matter (including the doing of, or the refusing to do, any act) and the person does not have reasonable grounds for making the representation, the representation shall be taken to be misleading.

(2) The onus of establishing that a person had reasonable grounds for making a representation referred to in subsection (1) is on the person.

(3) Subsection (1) shall not be taken to limit by implication the meaning of a reference in this Part to a misleading representation, a representation that is misleading in a material particular or conduct that is misleading or is likely or liable to mislead.

42 Misleading or deceptive conduct (TPA s 52)

(1) A person shall not, in trade or commerce, engage in conduct that is misleading or deceptive or is likely to mislead or deceive.

(2) Nothing in this Part shall be taken as limiting by implication the generality of subsection (1).

43 Unconscionable conduct (TPA s 52A)

- (1) A supplier shall not, in trade or commerce, in connection with the supply or possible supply of goods or services to a customer, engage in conduct that is, in all the circumstances, unconscionable.
- (2) Without limiting the matters to which the Supreme Court may have regard for the purpose of determining whether a supplier has contravened subsection (1) in connection with the supply or possible supply of goods or services, the Court may have regard to:
 - (a) the relative strengths of the bargaining positions of the supplier and the customer,
 - (b) whether, as a result of conduct engaged in by the supplier, the customer was required to comply with conditions that were not reasonably necessary for the protection of the legitimate interests of the supplier,
 - (c) whether the customer was able to understand any documents relating to the supply or possible supply of the goods or services,
 - (d) whether any undue influence or pressure was exerted on, or any unfair tactics were used against, the customer (or a person acting on behalf of the customer) by the supplier or a person acting on behalf of the supplier in relation to the supply or possible supply of the goods or services, and
 - (e) the amount for which, and the circumstances under which, the customer could have acquired identical or equivalent goods or services from a person other than the supplier.
- (3) A supplier shall not be taken for the purposes of this section to engage in unconscionable conduct in connection with the supply or possible supply of goods or services to a customer only because the supplier institutes legal proceedings in relation to that supply or possible supply or refers a dispute or claim in relation to that supply or possible supply to arbitration.
- (4) For the purpose of determining whether a supplier has contravened subsection (1) in connection with the supply or possible supply of goods or services to a customer:
 - (a) the Supreme Court shall not have regard to any circumstances that were not reasonably foreseeable at the time of the alleged contravention, and
 - (b) the Court may have regard to conduct engaged in, or circumstances existing, before the commencement of this Act.
- (5) A reference in this section to goods or services is a reference to goods or services of a kind ordinarily acquired for personal, domestic or household use or consumption.
- (6) A reference in this section to the supply or possible supply of goods does not include a

reference to the supply or possible supply of goods for the purpose of re-supply or for the purpose of using them up or transforming them in trade or commerce.

44 False representations (TPA s 53)

A person shall not, in trade or commerce, in connection with the supply or possible supply of goods or services or in connection with the promotion by any means of the supply or use of goods or services:

- (a) falsely represent that goods are of a particular standard, quality, value, grade, composition, style or model or have had a particular history or particular previous use,
- (b) falsely represent that services are of a particular standard, quality, value or grade,
- (c) falsely represent that goods are new,
- (d) falsely represent that a particular person has agreed to acquire goods or services,
- (e) represent that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, performance characteristics, accessories, uses or benefits they do not have,
- (f) represent that the person has a sponsorship, approval or affiliation the person does not have,
- (g) make a false or misleading representation concerning the price of goods or services,
- (h) make a false or misleading representation concerning the availability of facilities for the repair of goods or of spare parts for goods,
- (i) make a false or misleading representation concerning the place of origin of goods,
- (j) make a false or misleading representation concerning the need for any goods or services,
- (k) make a false or misleading representation concerning the existence, exclusion or effect of any condition, warranty, guarantee, right or remedy,
- (l) make a false or misleading representation concerning a person's rights or obligations under a residential tenancy agreement (within the meaning of the [Residential Parks Act 1998](#)) under which the residential premises consist of a residential site in a residential park or a moveable dwelling on such a residential site (within the meaning of that Act), or
- (m) make a false or misleading representation concerning a person's rights or obligations under a village contract (within the meaning of the [Retirement Villages Act 1999](#)), or
- (n) make a false or misleading representation concerning a person's rights or obligations under an occupation agreement (within the meaning of the [Holiday Parks \(Long-term Casual Occupation\) Act 2002](#)) under which the residential premises consist of a site in

a holiday park (within the meaning of that Act).

45 False representations and other misleading or offensive conduct in relation to land (TPA s 53A)

- (1) A person shall not, in trade or commerce, in connection with the sale or grant, or the possible sale or grant, of an interest in land or in connection with the promotion by any means of the sale or grant of an interest in land:
 - (a) represent that the person has a sponsorship, approval or affiliation the person does not have,
 - (b) make a false or misleading representation concerning the nature of the interest in the land, the price payable for the land, the location of the land, the characteristics of the land, the use to which the land is capable of being put or may lawfully be put or the existence or availability of facilities associated with the land, or
 - (c) offer gifts, prizes or other free items with the intention of not providing them or of not providing them as offered.
- (2) A person shall not use physical force or undue harassment or coercion in connection with the sale or grant, or the possible sale or grant, of an interest in land or the payment for an interest in land.
- (3) Nothing in this section shall be taken as implying that other provisions of this Act do not apply in relation to the supply or acquisition, or the possible supply or acquisition, of interests in land.

46 Misleading conduct in relation to employment (TPA s 53B)

A person shall not, in relation to employment that is to be, or may be, offered by the person or by another person, engage in conduct that is liable to mislead persons seeking the employment as to the availability, nature, terms or conditions of, or any other matter relating to, the employment.

47 Cash price to be stated in certain circumstances (TPA s 53C)

A person shall not, in trade or commerce, in connection with the supply or possible supply of goods or services or in connection with the promotion by any means of the supply or use of goods or services, make a representation with respect to an amount that, if paid, would constitute a part of the consideration for the supply of the goods or services unless the person also specifies the cash price for the goods or services.

48 Offering gifts and prizes (TPA s 54)

A person shall not, in trade or commerce, in connection with the supply or possible supply of goods or services or in connection with the promotion by any means of the supply or

use of goods or services, offer gifts, prizes or other free items with the intention of not providing them or of not providing them as offered.

49 Certain misleading conduct in relation to goods (TPA s 55)

A person shall not, in trade or commerce, engage in conduct that is liable to mislead the public as to the nature, the manufacturing process, the characteristics, the suitability for their purpose or the quantity of any goods.

50 Certain misleading conduct in relation to services (TPA s 55A)

A person shall not, in trade or commerce, engage in conduct that is liable to mislead the public as to the nature, the characteristics, the suitability for their purpose or the quantity of any services.

51 Bait advertising (TPA s 56)

- (1) A person shall not, in trade or commerce, advertise goods or services for supply at a specified price if there are reasonable grounds, of which the person is aware, or ought reasonably to be aware, for believing that the person will not be able to offer for supply those goods or services at that price for a period that is, and in quantities that are, reasonable having regard to the nature of the market in which the person carries on business and the nature of the advertisement.
- (2) A person who has, in trade or commerce, advertised goods or services for supply at a specified price shall offer the goods or services for supply at that price for a period that is, and in quantities that are, reasonable having regard to the nature of the market in which the person carries on business and the nature of the advertisement.
- (3) In a prosecution of a person under Part 6 in relation to a failure to offer goods or services to a person (in this subsection referred to as the **customer**) in accordance with subsection (2), it is a defence if it is established that:
 - (a) the defendant offered to supply, or to procure another person to supply, goods or services of the kind advertised to the customer within a reasonable time, in a reasonable quantity and at the advertised price, or
 - (b) the defendant offered to supply immediately, or to procure another person to supply within a reasonable time, equivalent goods or services to the customer in a reasonable quantity and at the price at which the first-mentioned goods or services were advertised,

and, in either case, where the offer was accepted by the customer, the defendant has so supplied, or procured another person to supply, goods or services.

52 Referral selling (TPA s 57)

A person shall not, in trade or commerce, induce a consumer to acquire goods or services

by representing that the consumer will, after the contract for the acquisition of the goods or services is made, receive a rebate, commission or other benefit in return for giving the person the names of prospective customers or otherwise assisting the person to supply goods or services to other consumers, if receipt of the rebate, commission or other benefit is contingent on an event occurring after that contract is made.

53 Accepting payment without intending or being able to supply as ordered (TPA s 58)

A person shall not, in trade or commerce, accept payment or other consideration for goods or services where, at the time of the acceptance:

- (a) the person intends:
 - (i) not to supply the goods or services, or
 - (ii) to supply goods or services materially different from the goods or services in respect of which the payment or other consideration is accepted, or
- (b) there are reasonable grounds, of which the person is aware, or ought reasonably to be aware, for believing that the person will not be able to supply the goods or services within the period specified by the person or, if no period is specified, within a reasonable time.

54 Misleading statements about certain business activities (TPA s 59)

- (1) A person shall not, in trade or commerce, make a representation that is false or misleading in a material particular concerning the profitability or risk or any other material aspect of any business activity that the person has represented as one that can be, or can be to a considerable extent, carried on at or from any place of residence.
- (2) Where a person, in trade or commerce, invites, whether by advertisement or otherwise, other persons to engage or participate, or to offer or apply to engage or participate, in a business activity requiring the performance by the other persons of work, or the investment of money by the other persons and the performance by them of work associated with the investment, the inviter shall not make, with respect to the profitability or risk or any other material aspect of the business activity, a representation that is false or misleading in a material particular.

55 Harassment and coercion (TPA s 60)

A person shall not use physical force or undue harassment or coercion in connection with the supply or possible supply of goods or services to a consumer or the payment for goods or services by a consumer.

56 Pyramid selling etc (TPA s 61)

- (1) A person contravenes this section if:

- (a) he or she is the promoter of, or (if there are more than one) one of the promoters of, or is a participant in, a trading scheme to which this section applies, and
 - (b) another person who is a participant in the trading scheme, or has applied or been invited to become a participant in the trading scheme, makes a payment to or for the benefit of the first-mentioned person, being a payment that he or she is induced to make because the prospect is held out to him or her of receiving payments or other benefits in respect of the introduction (whether by himself or herself or by another person) of other persons who become participants in the trading scheme.
- (2) A person also contravenes this section if:
- (a) he or she is the promoter of, or (if there are more than one) one of the promoters of, is a participant in, or is otherwise acting in accordance with, a trading scheme to which this section applies, and
 - (b) he or she, by holding out to another person the prospect of receiving payments or other benefits in respect of the introduction (whether by himself or herself or by another person) of other persons who become participants in the trading scheme, attempts to induce the person to whom the prospect is held out:
 - (i) if he or she is already a participant in the trading scheme—to make any payment to or for the benefit of the promoter or any of the promoters or to or for the benefit of a participant in the trading scheme, or
 - (ii) if he or she is not already a participant in the trading scheme—to become such a participant and to make a payment of a kind referred to in subparagraph (i).
- (3) A person also contravenes this section if he or she promotes, or takes part in the promotion of, a scheme under which:
- (a) a payment is to be made by another person who participates, or has applied or been invited to participate, in the scheme to or for the benefit of the first-mentioned person or of another person who takes part in the promotion of the scheme or to or for the benefit of another person who participates in the scheme, and
 - (b) the inducement for making the payment is the holding out to the person who makes or is to make the payment the prospect of receiving payments from other persons who may participate in the scheme.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (1), (2) or (3):
- (a) a prospect of a kind referred to in that subsection shall be taken to be held out to a person whether or not it is held out so as to confer on the person a legally enforceable right,

- (b) in determining whether an inducement or attempt to induce is made by holding out a prospect of a kind referred to in that subsection, it is sufficient if a prospect of that kind constitutes, or would constitute, a substantial part of the inducement, and
 - (c) a reference to the making of a payment to or for the benefit of a person shall be construed as including the making of a payment partly to or for the benefit of the person and partly to or for the benefit of one or more other persons.
- (5) For the purposes of this section, a scheme is a trading scheme to which this section applies if the elements of the scheme include:
- (a) the provision of goods or services by the person promoting the scheme (in this section referred to as the **promoter**) or, in the case of a scheme promoted by 2 or more persons acting in concert (in this section referred to as the **promoters**), by one or more of those persons, and
 - (b) the supply of those goods or services to or for other persons under transactions arranged or effected by persons who participate in the scheme (each of whom is in this section referred to as a **participant**), being persons not all of whom are promoters.
- (6) For the purposes of subsection (5):
- (a) a scheme shall be taken to include the element referred to in subsection (5) (b) even if a participant who is not a promoter acts in relation to a transaction in the capacity of a servant or agent of the promoter or of one of the promoters or in any other capacity,
 - (b) a scheme includes any arrangements made in connection with the carrying on of a business, whether or not those arrangements are made or recorded wholly or partly in writing, and
 - (c) a reference to the provision of goods or services by a person includes a reference to the provision of goods or services under arrangements to which the person is a party.

57 Unsolicited credit and debit cards (TPA s 63A)

- (1) A person shall not send a prescribed card to another person except:
- (a) in pursuance of a request in writing by the person who will be under a liability to the person who issued the card in respect of the use of the card, or
 - (b) in renewal or replacement of, or in substitution for:
 - (i) a prescribed card of the same kind previously sent to that other person in pursuance of a request in writing by the person who was under a liability to

the person who issued the card previously so sent in respect of the use of that card, or

(ii) a prescribed card of the same kind previously sent to that other person and used for a purpose for which it was intended to be used.

- (2) Subsection (1) applies only in relation to the sending of a prescribed card by or on behalf of the person who issued the card.
- (3) A person shall not take any action that enables another person who has a credit card or a debit card to use the card as a debit card or a credit card, as the case may be, except in accordance with a request in writing by the other person.
- (4) In this section:

article includes a token, card and document.

credit card means an article of a kind commonly known as a credit card or a similar article intended for use in obtaining cash, goods or services on credit, and includes an article of a kind commonly issued by persons carrying on business to customers or prospective customers of those persons for use in obtaining goods or services from those persons on credit.

debit card means an article intended for use by a person in obtaining access to an account held by the person for the purpose of withdrawing or depositing cash or obtaining goods or services.

prescribed card means a credit card, a debit card or an article that may be used as a credit card and a debit card.

58 Assertion of right to payment for unsolicited goods or services, or for making entry in directory (TPA s 64)

- (1) A person shall not, in trade or commerce, assert a right to payment from another person for unsolicited goods unless the person asserting the right has reasonable cause to believe that there is a right to payment.
- (2) A person shall not, in trade or commerce, assert a right to payment from another person for unsolicited services unless the person asserting the right has reasonable cause to believe that there is a right to payment.
- (3) A person shall not assert a right to payment from another person of a charge for the making in a directory of an entry relating to the other person, or to the profession, business, trade or occupation of the other person, unless the person asserting the right knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, that the other person has authorised the making of the entry.
- (4) A person is not liable to make any payment to another person, and is entitled to

recover by action in a court of competent jurisdiction against another person any payment made by the person to the other person, in full or part satisfaction of a charge for the making of an entry in a directory unless the first-mentioned person has authorised the making of the entry.

- (5) For the purposes of this section, a person shall be taken to assert a right to payment from another person for unsolicited goods or unsolicited services, or of a charge for the making of an entry in a directory, if the first-mentioned person:
- (a) makes a demand for the payment or asserts a present or prospective right to the payment,
 - (b) threatens to bring any legal proceedings with a view to obtaining the payment,
 - (c) places or causes to be placed the name of the other person on a list of defaulters or debtors, or threatens to do so, with a view to obtaining the payment,
 - (d) invokes or causes to be invoked any other collection procedure, or threatens to do so, with a view to obtaining the payment, or
 - (e) sends any invoice or other document stating the amount of the payment or setting out the price of the goods or services or the charge for the making of the entry and not stating as prominently (or more prominently) that no claim is made to the payment, or to payment of the price or charge, as the case may be.
- (6) A person shall not be taken for the purposes of this section to have authorised the making of an entry in a directory unless:
- (a) a document authorising the making of the entry has been signed by, or with the authority of, the person,
 - (b) the document specifies:
 - (i) the name of the directory,
 - (ii) the name and address of the person publishing the directory,
 - (iii) particulars of the entry, and
 - (iv) the amount of the charge for the making of the entry or the basis on which the charge is, or is to be, calculated, and
 - (c) a copy of the document has been given to the person before the right to payment of a charge for the making of the entry is asserted.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, an invoice or other document purporting to have been sent by or on behalf of a person shall be deemed to have been sent by that person unless the contrary is established.

- (8) In a proceeding against a person in respect of a contravention of this section:
- (a) in the case of a contravention constituted by asserting a right to payment from another person for unsolicited goods or unsolicited services—the burden lies on the defendant of proving that the defendant had reasonable cause to believe that there was a right to payment, or
 - (b) in the case of a contravention constituted by asserting a right to payment from another person of a charge for the making of an entry in a directory—the burden lies on the defendant of proving that the defendant knew or had reasonable cause to believe that the other person had authorised the making of the entry.

- (9) In this section:

directory includes any publication of a similar nature to a directory but does not include a newspaper published in good faith as a newspaper at regular intervals or a publication published, or to be published, by or under the authority of the Australian Telecommunications Commission.

making, in relation to an entry in a directory, means including, or arranging for the inclusion of, the entry.

59 Liability of recipient of unsolicited goods (TPA s 65)

- (1) A person to whom unsolicited goods are supplied by another person, in trade or commerce, is not liable to make any payment for the goods and is not liable for the loss of or damage to the goods other than loss or damage resulting from the doing of a wilful and unlawful act in relation to the goods during the period specified in subsection (4).
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), where a person sends, in trade or commerce, unsolicited goods to another person:
 - (a) neither the person who sent the goods nor any person claiming under that person is entitled after the expiration of the period specified in subsection (4) to take action for the recovery of the goods from the person to whom the goods were sent, and
 - (b) upon the expiration of that period the goods become, by force of this section, the property of the person to whom the goods were sent freed and discharged from all liens and charges of any description.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not apply to or in relation to unsolicited goods sent to a person if:
 - (a) the person has at any time during the period specified in subsection (4) unreasonably refused to permit the sender or the owner of the goods to take possession of the goods,

- (b) the sender or the owner of the goods has within that period taken possession of the goods, or
 - (c) the goods were received by the person in circumstances in which the person knew, or might reasonably be expected to have known, that the goods were not intended for the person.
- (4) The period referred to in subsections (1), (2) and (3) is:
- (a) if the person who receives the unsolicited goods gives notice with respect to the goods to the sender in accordance with subsection (5):
 - (i) the period of 1 month next following the day on which the notice is given, or
 - (ii) the period of 3 months next following the day on which the person received the goods,whichever first expires, and
 - (b) in any other case—the period of 3 months next following the day on which the person received the goods.
- (5) A notice referred to in subsection (4) shall be in writing and shall:
- (a) state the name and address of the person who received the goods,
 - (b) state the address at which possession may be taken of the goods if it is an address other than that of the person, and
 - (c) contain a statement to the effect that the goods are unsolicited goods.

60 Application of certain provisions to prescribed information providers (TPA s 65A)

- (1) Nothing in section 42, 44, 45, 49, 50 or 54 applies to a prescribed publication of matter by a prescribed information provider, other than:
- (a) a publication of matter in connection with:
 - (i) the supply or possible supply of goods or services,
 - (ii) the sale or grant, or possible sale or grant, of interests in land,
 - (iii) the promotion by any means of the supply or use of goods or services, or
 - (iv) the promotion by any means of the sale or grant of interests in land,where:
 - (v) the goods or services were relevant goods or services, or the interests in land were relevant interests in land, as the case may be, in relation to the prescribed information provider, or

(vi) the publication was made on behalf of, or pursuant to a contract, arrangement or understanding with:

(A) a person who supplies goods or services of that kind, or who sells or grants interests in land, being interests of that kind, or

(B) a body corporate that is related to a body corporate that supplies goods or services of that kind, or that sells or grants interests in land, being interests of that kind, or

(b) a publication of an advertisement.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a publication by a prescribed information provider is a prescribed publication if:

(a) in any case—the publication was made by the prescribed information provider in the course of carrying on a business of providing information, or

(b) in the case of a person who is a prescribed information provider by virtue of paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of the definition of **prescribed information provider** in subsection (3) (whether or not the person is also a prescribed information provider by virtue of another operation of that definition)—the publication was by way of a radio or television broadcast by the prescribed information provider.

(3) In this section:

consortium has the same meaning as it has in Part IIIB of the *Broadcasting and Television Act 1942* of the Commonwealth.

prescribed information provider means a person who carries on a business of providing information and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes:

(a) a person to whom, or each of the members of a consortium to which, a licence has been granted under Part IIIB of the *Broadcasting and Television Act 1942* of the Commonwealth,

(b) the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and

(c) the Special Broadcasting Service.

relevant goods or services, in relation to a prescribed information provider, means goods or services of a kind supplied by the prescribed information provider or, where the prescribed information provider is a body corporate, by a body corporate that is related to the prescribed information provider.

relevant interests in land, in relation to a prescribed information provider, means interests in land, being interests of a kind sold or granted by the prescribed information provider or, where the prescribed information provider is a body

corporate, by a body corporate that is related to the prescribed information provider.

Part 5A Trading stamp schemes and similar schemes

60A Definitions

(1) In this Part:

stamp includes any coupon, voucher, token or similar device, but does not include money.

(2) For the purposes of this Part, a **trading stamp scheme** is an arrangement by which:

(a) a purchaser of goods or services (in this Part called the **primary goods or services**) is given one or more stamps as a consequence of the purchase, and

(b) stamps obtained in that way are able to be traded:

(i) for additional goods or services (in this Part called the **secondary goods or services**) supplied by persons under the arrangement, or

(ii) for some discount, concession or advantage in connection with obtaining goods or services so supplied.

60B Unlawful trading stamp schemes

(1) A trading stamp scheme is unlawful unless:

(a) the supplier of the secondary goods or services is a person carrying on a genuine business of supplying those goods by retail, or of supplying those services, otherwise than under the scheme, or

(b) it is lawful according to subsection (2).

(2) A trading stamp scheme is lawful:

(a) if, under the scheme, the supplier of the primary goods or services is the supplier of the secondary goods or services, or

(b) if the stamps form part of, or are contained in, a newspaper or other periodical, or

(c) if it is prescribed by the regulations as a lawful trading stamp scheme.

60C Other unlawful schemes

(1) The regulations may declare a scheme of a kind described in the regulations to be an unlawful scheme.

(2) A regulation is not to be made for the purposes of this section except on the recommendation of the Director-General, who must be satisfied that the scheme concerned:

- (a) operates in a way similar to a trading stamp scheme, and
- (b) is likely:
 - (i) to have an inflationary effect on retail prices, or
 - (ii) to promote unfair competition between a retailer who is a participant in the scheme and one who is not, or
 - (iii) to be prejudicial, in any other respect, to fair trading or to the public interest.
- (3) A declaration, in a regulation made for the purposes of this section, that it was made on the recommendation of the Director-General is prima facie evidence that the recommendation was duly made.
- (4) A scheme may be declared to be an unlawful scheme even though, while operating in a way similar to a trading stamp scheme, it employs some electronic means or other technique in addition to, or instead of, the issue of stamps.
- (5) Except to the extent to which the scheme is rendered lawful by or under section 60B (2), a scheme declared by the regulations to be an unlawful scheme is to be regarded, for the purposes of this Part, as an unlawful trading stamp scheme.

60D Offences

A person must not:

- (a) act as a promoter of an unlawful trading stamp scheme, or
- (b) deliver or offer to deliver to another person any stamps or equipment intended for use in an unlawful trading stamp scheme, or
- (c) supply any goods or services in exchange for stamps or credits, or partly in exchange for stamps or credits, in accordance with an unlawful trading stamp scheme, or
- (d) publish an advertisement, or cause an advertisement to be published, which is intended or apparently intended:
 - (i) to induce persons to obtain, give out or trade stamps or credits in accordance with an unlawful trading stamp scheme, or
 - (ii) otherwise to further the promotion or operation of such a scheme.

Part 5B Lay-by sales

60E Meaning of "lay-by"

- (1) A lay-by is the supply of goods on terms (express or implied) which provide that:
 - (a) the goods will not be delivered to the consumer until the whole of the price has

been paid, and

(b) the price is required or allowed to be paid by 3 or more instalments (for this purpose a deposit is considered to be an instalment).

- (2) The fact that the purchase price is allowed to be paid by less than 3 instalments does not prevent there being a lay-by, so long as payment by 3 or more instalments is allowed also.
- (3) A supply of goods which would be a lay-by except for the fact that the price is required to be paid by less than 3 instalments is taken to be a lay-by if the supplier has described, represented or advertised it as being a lay-by.
- (4) The goods need not be in existence or in the supplier's possession when a lay-by is entered into.

60F Consumer must be given written statement of lay-by terms

- (1) The consumer under a lay-by must be given a written statement (a **lay-by statement**) containing the terms or a summary of the terms of the lay-by.
- (2) The statement must be given to the consumer when the lay-by is entered into and must be clearly legible, readily understandable and written in the English language. The statement may be written in another language if that language is understood by the consumer.
- (3) The following are examples of some of the matters that the terms of a lay-by would provide for and which would appear in the lay-by statement:
 - the purchase price of the goods
 - any deposit paid and balance outstanding
 - the dates on which instalments are due
 - any cancellation charge payable
 - the date by which the final instalment must be paid.

60G Consumer can cancel lay-by

- (1) The consumer can cancel a lay-by by notifying the supplier in writing that the consumer wants to cancel, but this can only be done before the goods are delivered.
- (2) The supplier can accept the cancellation of a lay-by even if cancellation is not notified in writing.
- (3) Section 60I provides for refunds, cancellation charges and other matters when a lay-by is cancelled.

60H Supplier can cancel if consumer breaches lay-by term

- (1) The supplier can cancel a lay-by if the consumer breaches a term of the lay-by (for example, by being late with a payment).
- (2) However, the supplier must first give the consumer notice that the lay-by will be cancelled if the consumer does not rectify the breach within a specified period (in the example, by making the payment). The period specified must not be less than 7 days.
- (3) The notice to the consumer must be in writing unless the consumer accepts notice given in some other way (such as by telephone), but it must not be a term of the lay-by that the consumer agrees to accept notice given other than in writing.
- (4) The lay-by is cancelled at the end of the period specified in the notice unless the consumer rectifies the breach before then or the supplier agrees not to cancel.
- (5) Section 60I provides for refunds, cancellation charges and other matters when a lay-by is cancelled.

60I What happens when a lay-by is cancelled

- (1) When a lay-by is cancelled (whether by the supplier or the consumer):
 - (a) the supplier must refund to the consumer all money paid by the consumer under the lay-by (except any amount that the supplier is allowed to keep under paragraph (b)), and
 - (b) the supplier is allowed to keep the **cancellation charge** (the amount specified in the lay-by statement as the amount the consumer must pay if the consumer cancels or the lay-by is cancelled because the consumer fails to make a payment), and
 - (c) the supplier is entitled to recover any unpaid cancellation charge from the consumer as a debt if the amounts paid by the consumer under the lay-by are not enough to cover the cancellation charge.
- (2) However, the supplier cannot keep or recover any cancellation charge (or any other money) if:
 - (a) the supplier has breached any term of the lay-by, or
 - (b) the goods were not available for delivery to the consumer when the terms of the lay-by indicated they would be available, or
 - (c) the lay-by statement given to the consumer does not comply with section 60F, is misleading or deceptive or contains a material false representation as to the terms of the lay-by.
- (3) A lay-by statement can provide that the cancellation charge is to be an amount

calculated in a particular way (rather than by providing that it is to be a particular amount).

60J Supplier's only remedies are those provided by this Part

- (1) If a term of a lay-by is breached by the consumer or the lay-by is cancelled, the supplier is not entitled to damages or to enforce any other remedy in respect of the breach or cancellation except the remedies specifically provided by this Part.
- (2) In particular, the supplier is not entitled to keep or recover any money from the consumer except as specifically provided by this Part.

60K Supplier cannot demand early payment

If it is a term of a lay-by that payment in full must be made by a fixed or ascertainable date, the supplier is not entitled to demand payment before that date.

60L Cancellation charge cannot exceed a reasonable amount

- (1) The cancellation charge that a supplier is allowed to keep or recover under this Part is not to exceed the sum of the following amounts:
 - (a) an amount sufficient to recoup the supplier for reasonable selling costs (including storage costs and administrative expenses) in respect of the lay-by,
 - (b) an amount that equates to any loss of value of the goods (whether due to deterioration or otherwise) between when the lay-by was entered into and when the lay-by was cancelled.
- (2) The supplier has the onus of establishing any loss of value of the goods and his or her reasonable selling costs.
- (3) The supplier must also establish that any loss of value could not have been avoided by the exercise of reasonable diligence on the supplier's part, otherwise the loss of value is to be disregarded.

60M Contracting out etc prohibited

- (1) A term of a lay-by is void to the extent that it would operate to exclude, modify or restrict the operation of this Part.
- (2) A supplier must not enter into a lay-by if a term of the lay-by would (but for subsection (1)) operate to exclude, modify or restrict the operation of this Part.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

60N Other rights of consumer not affected

This Part does not affect any rights that a consumer may have otherwise than under this Part, such as the right to sue for damages for breach of a term of the lay-by.

60O Other laws not affected

- (1) This Part does not affect the operation of any other Act or law (for example, the [Sale of Goods Act 1923](#)) with respect to a lay-by, to the extent that does not exclude, modify or restrict the operation of this Part.
- (2) The terms of a lay-by are not limited by this Part and include any terms implied by any other Act or law, to the extent that does not exclude, modify or restrict the operation of this Part.

Part 5C Employment placement services

60P Interpretation

- (1) In this Part, **employment placement service** means a service provided by a person as an agent for the purpose of:
 - (a) finding or assisting to find a person to carry out work for a person seeking to have work carried out, or
 - (b) finding or assisting to find employment for a person seeking to be employed, whether or not the employment or work is to be undertaken or carried out pursuant to a contract of employment.
- (2) However, **employment placement service** does not include the publication of an advertisement for a person who is seeking to have work carried out or to be employed if that publication is the only service of a kind referred to in subsection (1) (a) or (b) that is provided to the person by the person arranging the publication.
- (3) This Part does not apply to or in respect of:
 - (a) a model or modelling agency, or
 - (b) a licensee under the [Entertainment Industry Act 1989](#), or
 - (c) a person or class of persons exempted (conditionally or unconditionally) from this Part by the regulations.

60Q Certain fees and charges prohibited in connection with employment placement services

- (1) A person must not demand or receive any fee, charge or other remuneration from a person seeking employment for the provision of employment placement services to the person in relation to the seeking of employment.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (2) It is immaterial whether the employment is to be carried out or undertaken pursuant

to a contract of employment.

- (3) If any fee, charge or other remuneration is received in contravention of this section, the amount concerned may be recovered from the person to whom it was paid in a court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due to the person who paid the amount.

60R Information standards

- (1) The regulations may prescribe an information standard for employment placement services.
- (2) A prescribed information standard may contain either or both of the following:
 - (a) requirements for information relating to employment placement services to be communicated to a person to whom the services are to be supplied,
 - (b) requirements with respect to the type and form of information to be so communicated and the manner of communication.
- (3) A person who provides employment placement services must comply with the requirements of any information standard prescribed in accordance with this section.

Part 6 Enforcement and remedies

61 Interpretation (TPA s 75B)

A reference in this Part to a person involved in a contravention of a provision of this Act shall be read as a reference to a person who:

- (a) has aided, abetted, counselled or procured the contravention,
- (b) has induced, whether by threats or promises or otherwise, the contravention,
- (c) has been in any way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the contravention, or
- (d) has conspired with others to effect the contravention.

62 Offences against this Act (TPA s 79)

- (1) A person who:
 - (a) contravenes,
 - (b) aids, abets, counsels or procures a person to contravene,
 - (c) induces, or attempts to induce, a person whether by threats or promises or otherwise, to contravene,
 - (d) is in any way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the

contravention by a person of, or

(e) conspires with others to contravene,

a provision of this Act other than section 42 or 43 is guilty of an offence against this Act.

- (2) A person guilty of an offence against this Act for which a penalty is not otherwise provided is liable:
- (a) in the case of a person other than a body corporate—to a penalty not exceeding 200 penalty units, or
- (b) in the case of a body corporate—to a penalty not exceeding 1,000 penalty units.
- (3) If an act or omission is both an offence against this Act and an offence under a law of the Commonwealth or a law in force elsewhere in Australia, a person convicted of an offence under that law is not liable to be convicted of the offence against this Act.
- (4) Where a person is convicted of 2 or more offences constituted by, or relating to, contraventions of the same provision of this Act, being contraventions that appear to the sentencing court to have been of the same nature or a substantially similar nature and to have occurred at or about the same time (whether or not the person is also convicted of an offence or offences constituted by, or relating to, another contravention or other contraventions of that provision that were of a different nature or occurred at a different time), the court shall not, in respect of the first-mentioned offences, impose on the person fines that, in the aggregate, exceed the maximum fine that would be applicable in respect of one offence by the person against that provision.
- (5) Where:
- (a) a person is convicted of an offence constituted by, or relating to, a contravention of a provision of this Act, and
- (b) a fine has, or fines have, previously been imposed on the person by the sentencing court for an offence or offences constituted by, or relating to, another contravention or other contraventions of the same provision, being a contravention that, or contraventions each of which, appears to the court to have been of the same nature as, or of a substantially similar nature to, and to have occurred at or about the same time as, the first-mentioned contravention (whether or not a fine has, or fines have, also previously been imposed on the person for an offence or offences constituted by, or relating to, a contravention or contraventions of that provision that were of a different nature or occurred at a different time),

the court shall not, in respect of the offence mentioned in paragraph (a), impose on

the person a fine that exceeds the amount (if any) by which the maximum fine applicable in respect of that offence under subsection (1) is greater than the amount of the fine, or the sum of the amounts of the fines, first referred to in paragraph (b).

- (6) In proceedings in the Supreme Court in its summary jurisdiction against a person for contravening, or being involved in a contravention of, a provision of Part 3, 4, 5, 5A, 5B or 8, the Court may:
 - (a) grant an injunction under section 65 against the person in relation to:
 - (i) the conduct that constitutes, or is alleged to constitute, the contravention, or
 - (ii) other conduct of that kind, or
 - (b) make an order under section 67 in relation to the contravention.
- (7) Where a person is, by any conviction or order of a Local Court, adjudged to pay a fine, penalty, sum of money or costs in respect of an offence against this Act, the Court by which the conviction or order was effected or made may, on the application of the Minister or the Director-General, order that the amount unpaid be recoverable as if it were a judgment debt payable by the defaulter to the Crown under a judgment entered up in the Court.
- (8) Where an order is made under subsection (7):
 - (a) the order has effect according to its tenor, and
 - (b) the conviction or order ceases to be enforceable by imprisonment.
- (9) If a person is convicted of an offence against this Act, the convicting court may order the offender to reimburse the Department for the cost of purchasing or testing any goods to which the conviction relates.

63 Disposal of proceedings for offence

- (1) Proceedings for an offence against this Act may be taken and prosecuted only by the Director-General or, in the name of the Director-General, by a person acting with the authority of the Director-General.
- (2) Proceedings for an offence against this Act (other than a breach of the regulations) shall be disposed of summarily before:
 - (a) a Local Court, or
 - (b) the Supreme Court in its summary jurisdiction.
- (3) Proceedings for a breach of the regulations shall be disposed of summarily before a Local Court.

- (4) In proceedings for an offence against this Act, an authority to prosecute purporting to have been signed by the Director-General is evidence of that authority without proof of the signature of the Director-General.
- (5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the maximum monetary penalty that may be imposed by a Local Court in proceedings for an offence against this Act is 50 penalty units or the maximum monetary penalty provided by this Act for the offence, whichever is the lesser.
- (6) Proceedings for an offence against this Act may be commenced within 3 years after the alleged commission of the offence.

64 Penalty notices for certain offences

- (1) In this section:

authorised officer means:

- (a) the Director-General,
 - (b) an investigator, or
 - (c) a person appointed in writing by the Director-General as an authorised officer for the purposes of this section.
- (2) Where it appears to an authorised officer that any person has committed an offence prescribed for the purposes of this section, the authorised officer may serve a notice on the apparent offender to the effect that if it is not desired to have the matter determined by a court, the person served may pay to the Director-General within the time specified in the notice the amount of the penalty prescribed for the offence if dealt with under this section.
 - (3) A notice under subsection (2) may be served personally or by post.
 - (4), (5) (Repealed)
 - (6) Where the amount of any penalty prescribed for an alleged offence is paid pursuant to this section, no person is liable to any further proceedings for the alleged offence.
 - (7) Payment of the amount of a penalty pursuant to this section shall not be regarded as an admission of liability for the purpose of, nor in any way affect or prejudice, any civil claim, action or proceeding arising out of the same occurrence.
 - (8) The regulations may prescribe an offence for the purposes of this section by setting out the offence or by a reference to the provision of this Act or the regulations creating the offence.
 - (9) An amount of penalty prescribed under this section for any offence shall not exceed any maximum amount of penalty which could be imposed for the offence by a court.

- (10) The provisions of this section shall be construed as supplementing, and not as derogating from, any other provision of this Act or the regulations or any other Act or regulation, by-law or ordinance under any other Act in relation to proceedings which may be taken in respect of offences.

64A Suspension of licences

- (1) In this section, **licence** means any licence, permit or other authority granted or issued (whether before or after the commencement of this section) under any legislation administered by the Minister, and **licensee** means the holder of the licence, permit or authority.
- (2) If the Director-General is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds to believe that:
- (a) a licensee has engaged in conduct that, under legislation administered by the Minister, constitutes grounds for suspension or cancellation of the licence, and
 - (b) it is likely that the licensee will continue to engage in that conduct, and
 - (c) there is a danger that a person or persons may suffer significant harm, or significant loss or damage, as a result of that conduct unless action is taken urgently,

the Director-General may, by notice served on the licensee, suspend the licence for a period of not more than 60 days specified in the notice, commencing on service of the notice.

- (3) A notice under subsection (2) has effect according to its terms, whether or not the licensee has been afforded an opportunity to be heard as to whether the licence should be suspended.
- (4) Within 7 days after a licence has been suspended under this section, the licensee must:
- (a) lodge the suspended licence at an office of the Department of Fair Trading, or
 - (b) if unable to lodge the suspended licence, lodge at an office of the Department of Fair Trading a statement signed by the licensee and providing accurate and complete details of why the licence cannot be lodged.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

- (5) If, during the suspension of a licence under this section, the Director-General is satisfied that the facts and circumstances that gave rise to the suspension have so altered that the suspension should be terminated, it is the duty of the Director-General, by further notice specifying the date of termination, to terminate the suspension without delay and restore the licence to the licensee.

- (6) Without affecting the generality of subsection (2):
- (a) a second or subsequent notice may be served on a licensee under that subsection in respect of conduct of the kind to which that subsection refers, and
 - (b) any such notice may be served during a period of suspension of the licence concerned.
- (7) This section has effect despite the provisions of any other Act, and the power conferred by this section is in addition to, and does not limit or displace, a power conferred by or under any other Act that authorises the Director-General or any other person to suspend or cancel a licence or take other action in respect of a licence or in respect of the conduct concerned.
- (8) A licensee may apply to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal for a review of a decision of the Director-General under this section.

65 Injunctions (TPA s 80)

- (1) Where, on the application of the Minister, the Director-General or any other person, the Supreme Court is satisfied that a person has engaged, or is proposing to engage, in conduct that constitutes or would constitute:
- (a) a contravention of a provision of Part 3, 4, 5, 5A, 5B or 8,
 - (b) attempting to contravene such a provision,
 - (c) aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring a person to contravene such a provision,
 - (d) inducing, or attempting to induce, whether by threats or promises or otherwise, a person to contravene such a provision,
 - (e) being in a way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the contravention by a person of such a provision, or
 - (f) conspiring with others to contravene such a provision,
- the Court may grant an injunction in such terms as the Court determines to be appropriate.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), an injunction granted under that subsection may be, or include, an injunction restraining a person from carrying on a business of supplying goods or services (whether or not as part of, or incidental to, the carrying on of another business):
- (a) for a specified period, or
 - (b) except on specified terms and conditions.

- (3) Where an application for an injunction under subsection (1) has been made, the Supreme Court may, if the Court determines it to be appropriate, grant an injunction by consent of all the parties to the proceedings, whether or not the Court is satisfied that a person has engaged, or is proposing to engage, in conduct of a kind specified in subsection (1).
- (4) Where in the opinion of the Supreme Court it is desirable to do so, the Court may grant an injunction pending determination of an application under subsection (1).
- (5) The Supreme Court may rescind or vary an injunction granted under subsection (1), (3) or (4).
- (6) The power of the Supreme Court to grant an injunction restraining a person from engaging in conduct may be exercised:
 - (a) whether or not it appears to the Court that the person intends to engage again, or to continue to engage, in conduct of that kind,
 - (b) whether or not the person has previously engaged in conduct of that kind, and
 - (c) whether or not there is an imminent danger of substantial damage to any person if the first-mentioned person engages in conduct of that kind.
- (7) The power of the Supreme Court to grant an injunction requiring a person to do an act or thing may be exercised:
 - (a) whether or not it appears to the Court that the person intends to refuse or fail again, or to continue to refuse or fail, to do that act or thing,
 - (b) whether or not the person has previously refused or failed to do that act or thing, and
 - (c) whether or not there is an imminent danger of substantial damage to any person if the first-mentioned person refuses or fails to do that act or thing.
- (8) Where the Minister or the Director-General makes an application to the Supreme Court for the grant of an injunction under this section, the Court shall not require the applicant or any other person, as a condition of granting an interim injunction, to give any undertaking as to damages or costs.
- (9) If:
 - (a) in a case to which subsection (8) does not apply, the Court would, but for this subsection, require a person to give an undertaking as to damages or costs, and
 - (b) the Minister gives the undertaking,the Court shall accept the undertaking by the Minister and shall not require a further undertaking from any other person.

- (10) If the Court grants an injunction in relation to goods the supply of which would offend against section 27, 32 or 34, the Court may make such order as it thinks fit with respect to disposal of the goods.

66 Other injunctions

- (1) If, on the application of the Director-General with the consent of the Minister, the Supreme Court is satisfied that a person has engaged, or is proposing to engage, in conduct that constitutes, or would constitute:
- (a) a contravention of:
 - (i) a provision of this Act other than a provision of Part 3, 4, 5, 5A, 5B or 8,
 - (ia) a provision of the *Fitness Services (Pre-paid Fees) Act 2000*,
 - (ii) a provision of any other legislation administered by the Minister or of an order made under any such legislation,
 - (iii) a provision of a code of practice in force under Part 7 in respect of which the Director-General has requested the person to give an undertaking under section 76 or has applied to the Tribunal under section 78, or
 - (iv) a provision of an order of the Tribunal under Part 7,
 - (b) attempting to contravene such a provision,
 - (c) aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring a person to contravene such a provision,
 - (d) inducing, or attempting to induce, whether by threats or promises or otherwise, a person to contravene such a provision,
 - (e) being in any way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the contravention by a person of such a provision, or
 - (f) conspiring with others to contravene such a provision,
- the Court may grant an injunction in such terms as the Court determines to be appropriate.
- (2) An injunction under subsection (1) may be granted as an interim injunction without an undertaking being required as to damages or costs or may be granted as a permanent injunction.

67 Order to disclose information or publish advertisement (TPA s 80A)

Without limiting the generality of section 65, where, on the application of the Minister or the Director-General, the Supreme Court is satisfied that a person has engaged in conduct constituting a contravention of a provision of Part 3, 4, 5 (section 43 excepted), 5A, 5B or

8 the Court may make either or both of the following orders:

- (a) an order requiring that person or a person involved in the contravention to disclose to the public, to a particular person or to persons included in a particular class of persons, in such manner as is specified in the order, such information, or information of such a kind, as is so specified, being information that is in the possession of the person to whom the order is directed or to which that last-mentioned person has access,
- (b) an order requiring the person or a person involved in the contravention to publish, at the person's own expense, in a manner and at times specified in the order, advertisements the terms of which are specified in, or are to be determined in accordance with, the order.

68 Actions for damages (TPA s 82)

- (1) A person who suffers loss or damage by conduct of another person that is in contravention of a provision of Part 3, 4, 5 (section 43 excepted), 5A or 5B may recover the amount of the loss or damage by action against the other person or against any person involved in the contravention.
 - (1A) A reference to loss or damage in subsection (1) does not, if the loss or damage arises from a contravention of Part 5 (section 43 excepted), include a reference to:
 - (a) the death of a person, or
 - (b) personal injury to a person (including any pre-natal injury, any impairment of the person's physical or mental condition and any disease).
- (2) An action under subsection (1) may be commenced at any time within 3 years after the date on which the cause of action accrued.
- (3) If the matter of such loss or damage arises in connection with a matter the subject of proceedings in the Tribunal, the Tribunal may proceed to decide it, and in so doing may award such sum, and make such ancillary orders, as it thinks fit.

69 Finding in proceedings to be evidence (TPA s 83)

In a proceeding against a person under section 68 or in an application under section 72 (2) for an order against a person, a finding of any fact by a court made in proceedings under section 65, 66 or 67, or for an offence against this Act, in which that person has been found to have contravened, or to have been involved in a contravention of, a provision of Part 3, 4, 5 or 5B is evidence of that fact and the finding may be proved by production of a document under the seal of the court from which the finding appears.

70 Conduct by directors, servants or agents (TPA s 84)

- (1) If, in a proceeding under this Part in respect of conduct engaged in by a body

corporate, it is necessary to establish the state of mind of the body corporate, it is sufficient to show that a director, servant or agent of the body corporate, being a director, servant or agent by whom the conduct was engaged in within the scope of the person's actual or apparent authority, had that state of mind.

(2) Any conduct engaged in on behalf of a body corporate:

- (a) by a director, servant or agent of the body corporate within the scope of the person's actual or apparent authority, or
- (b) by any other person at the direction or with the consent or agreement (whether express or implied) of a director, servant or agent of the body corporate, if the giving of the direction, consent or agreement is within the scope of the actual or apparent authority of the director, servant or agent,

shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to have been engaged in also by the body corporate.

(3) If, in a proceeding under this Part in respect of conduct engaged in by a person other than a body corporate, it is necessary to establish the state of mind of the person, it is sufficient to show that a servant or agent of the person, being a servant or agent by whom the conduct was engaged in within the scope of the servant's or agent's actual or apparent authority, had that state of mind.

(4) Conduct engaged in on behalf of a person other than a body corporate:

- (a) by a servant or agent of the person within the scope of the actual or apparent authority of the servant or agent, or
- (b) by any other person at the direction or with the consent or agreement (whether express or implied) of a servant or agent of the first-mentioned person, if the giving of the direction, consent or agreement is within the scope of the actual or apparent authority of the servant or agent,

shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to have been engaged in also by the first-mentioned person.

(5) A reference in this section to the state of mind of a person includes a reference to the knowledge, intention, opinion, belief or purpose of the person and the person's reasons for that intention, opinion, belief or purpose.

71 Defences (TPA s 85)

(1) Subject to subsection (3), in a prosecution under this Part in relation to a contravention of a provision of Part 3, 4, 5, 5A, 5B or 8 it is a defence if the defendant establishes:

- (a) that the contravention in respect of which the proceeding was instituted was due

to reasonable mistake,

(b) that the contravention in respect of which the proceeding was instituted was due to reasonable reliance on information supplied by another person, or

(c) that:

(i) the contravention in respect of which the proceeding was instituted was due to the act or default of another person, to an accident or to some other cause beyond the defendant's control, and

(ii) the defendant took reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to avoid the contravention.

(2) In subsection (1) (b) and (c), **another person** does not include a person who was:

(a) a servant or agent of the defendant, or

(b) in the case of a defendant being a body corporate, a director, servant or agent of the defendant,

at the time when the contravention occurred.

(3) If a defence provided by subsection (1) involves an allegation that a contravention was due to reliance on information supplied by another person or to the act or default of another person, the defendant is not, without leave of the court, entitled to rely on that defence unless the defendant has, not later than 7 days before the day on which the hearing of the proceeding commences, served on the person by whom the proceeding was instituted a notice in writing giving such information that would identify or assist in the identification of the other person as was then in the defendant's possession.

(4) In a proceeding under this Part in relation to a contravention of a provision of this Act committed by the publication of an advertisement, it is a defence if it is established that the defendant is a person whose business it is to publish or arrange for the publication of advertisements and that the defendant received the advertisement for publication in the ordinary course of business and did not know and had no reason to suspect that its publication would amount to a contravention of a provision of this Act.

72 Other orders (TPA s 87)

(1A) A reference in this section to loss or damage does not, if the loss or damage arises from a contravention of Part 5 (section 43 excepted), include a reference to:

(a) the death of a person, or

(b) personal injury to a person (including any pre-natal injury, any impairment of the person's physical or mental condition and any disease).

- (1) Without limiting the generality of section 65, if, in a proceeding instituted under this Part, or for an offence against Part 3, 4, 5, 5B or 8, the Supreme Court finds that a person has sustained, or is likely to sustain, loss or damage by conduct of another person that contravened a provision of Part 3, 4, 5, 5B or 8, the Court may, whether or not it grants an injunction under section 65 or makes an order under section 67 or 68, make such order or orders as it thinks appropriate against the person who engaged in the conduct or a person who was involved in the contravention (including all or any of the orders specified in subsection (5)) if the Court considers that the order or orders concerned will compensate the first-mentioned person wholly or in part for the loss or damage or will prevent or reduce the loss or damage.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of section 65, the Supreme Court may, on the application of a person who has sustained, or is likely to sustain, loss or damage by conduct of another person that contravened a provision of Part 3, 4, 5, 5B or 8 or on the application of the Director-General in accordance with subsection (4) on behalf of such a person or 2 or more such persons, make such order or orders as the Court thinks appropriate against the person who engaged in the conduct or a person who was involved in the contravention (including all or any of the orders specified in subsection (5)) if the Court considers that the order or orders concerned will compensate the person who made the application, or the person or any of the persons on whose behalf the application was made, wholly or in part for the loss or damage or will prevent or reduce the loss or damage.
- (3) An application may be made under subsection (2) in relation to a contravention of Part 3, 4, 5, 5B or 8 even if a proceeding has not been instituted under another provision of this Part in relation to the contravention.
- (4) Where, in a proceeding instituted for an offence against Part 3, 4, 5, 5B or 8 or instituted by the Minister or the Director-General under section 65, a person is found to have engaged in conduct in contravention of a provision of Part 3, 4, 5, 5B or 8, the Director-General may make an application under subsection (2) on behalf of one or more persons identified in the application who have suffered, or are likely to suffer, loss or damage by the conduct, but the Director-General shall not make such an application except with the consent in writing given before the application is made by the person, or by each of the persons, on whose behalf the application is made.
- (5) The orders referred to in subsections (1) and (2) are:
 - (a) an order declaring the whole or any part of a contract made between the person who suffered, or is likely to suffer, the loss or damage and the person who engaged in the conduct or a person who was involved in the contravention constituted by the conduct, or of a collateral arrangement relating to such a contract, to be void and, if the Supreme Court thinks fit, to have been void from its beginning or at all times on and after such date before the date on which the order is made as is specified in the order,

- (b) an order varying such a contract or arrangement in such manner as is specified in the order and, if the Court thinks fit, declaring the contract or arrangement to have had effect as so varied on and after such date before the date on which the order is made as is so specified,
 - (c) an order refusing to enforce any or all of the provisions of such a contract or arrangement,
 - (d) an order directing the person who engaged in the conduct or a person who was involved in the contravention constituted by the conduct to refund money or return property to the person who suffered the loss or damage,
 - (e) an order directing the person who engaged in the conduct or a person who was involved in the contravention constituted by the conduct to pay to the person who suffered the loss or damage the amount of the loss or damage,
 - (f) an order directing the person who engaged in the conduct or a person who was involved in the contravention constituted by the conduct, at the person's own expense, to repair, or provide parts for, goods that had been supplied by the person who engaged in the conduct to the person who suffered, or is likely to suffer, the loss or damage,
 - (g) an order directing the person who engaged in the conduct or a person who was involved in the contravention constituted by the conduct, at the person's own expense, to supply specified services to the person who suffered, or is likely to suffer, the loss or damage, and
 - (h) an order, in relation to an instrument creating or transferring an interest in land, directing the person who engaged in the conduct or a person who was involved in the contravention constituted by the conduct to execute an instrument that:
 - (i) varies, or has the effect of varying, the first-mentioned instrument, or
 - (ii) terminates or otherwise affects, or has the effect of terminating or otherwise affecting, the operation or effect of the first-mentioned instrument.
- (6) An application under subsection (2) in relation to a contravention of section 43 may be made at any time within 2 years after the cause of action accrued or, in any other case, at any time within 3 years after the cause of action accrued.
- (7) For the purpose of determining whether to make an order under this section in relation to a contravention of section 43, the Court may have regard to the conduct of the parties to the proceedings since the contravention occurred.
- (8) The powers conferred on the Supreme Court under this section in relation to a contract or arrangement do not affect any powers that any other court may have in relation to the contract or arrangement in proceedings instituted in that other court in

respect of the contract or arrangement.

73 Power of Supreme Court to prohibit payment or transfer of money or other property (TPA s 87A)

(1) Where:

- (a) proceedings have been commenced in the Supreme Court against a person for an offence against this Act,
- (b) an application has been made under section 65 or 66 for an injunction against a person in relation to a contravention of a provision of this Act,
- (c) an action has been commenced under section 68 (1) against a person in relation to a contravention of a provision of this Act, or
- (d) an application for an order under section 72 (2) or (4) has been or may be made against a person in relation to a contravention of a provision of this Act,

the Court may, on the application of the Minister or the Director-General, make an order or orders specified in subsection (2) if the Court is satisfied that:

- (e) it is necessary or desirable to do so for the purpose of preserving money or other property held by or on behalf of a person referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d), as the case may be (in this section referred to as the **relevant person**), if the relevant person is liable or may become liable under this Act to pay money by way of a fine, damages, compensation, refund or otherwise or to transfer, sell or return other property, and
- (f) it will not unduly prejudice the rights and interests of any other person.

(2) The orders referred to in subsection (1) are:

- (a) an order prohibiting, either absolutely or subject to conditions, a person who is indebted to the relevant person or to an associate of the relevant person from making a payment in total or partial discharge of the debt to, or to another person at the direction or request of, the person to whom the debt is owed,
- (b) an order prohibiting, either absolutely or subject to conditions, a person who is holding money or other property on behalf of the relevant person or on behalf of an associate of the relevant person from paying all or any of the money, or transferring, or otherwise parting with possession of, the other property, to, or to another person at the direction or request of, the person on whose behalf the money or other property is held,
- (c) an order prohibiting, either absolutely or subject to conditions, the taking or sending by any person of money of the relevant person or of an associate of the relevant person to a place outside the State,

- (d) an order prohibiting, either absolutely or subject to conditions, the taking, sending or transfer by any person of other property of the relevant person or of an associate of the relevant person to a place outside the State, and
 - (e) an order appointing, where the relevant person is a natural person, a receiver or trustee of the property or of part of the property of the relevant person with such powers as are specified in the order.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), an order under this section may be expressed to operate:
- (a) for a period specified in the order, or
 - (b) until proceedings under any other provision of this Part in relation to which the order was made have been concluded.
- (4) An order under this section made in the absence of the person against whom the order is sought shall not be expressed to operate for a period exceeding 30 days.
- (5) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with an order by the Supreme Court under this section that is applicable to the person is guilty of an offence punishable on conviction:
- (a) in the case of a person other than a body corporate—by a fine not exceeding 200 penalty units, or
 - (b) in the case of a body corporate—by a fine not exceeding 1,000 penalty units.
- (6) Nothing in this section affects the powers that the Court has apart from this section.
- (7) A reference in this section to a person who is an associate of a relevant person is a reference to:
- (a) a person holding money or other property on behalf of the relevant person, or
 - (b) if the relevant person is a body corporate—a wholly owned subsidiary of the relevant person.

73A Enforcement of undertakings (TPA ss 87B and 87C)

- (1) The Director-General may accept a written undertaking given by a person for the purposes of this section in connection with a matter in relation to which the Director-General has a function under this Act (other than a function in connection with Part 7).
- (2) The person may withdraw or vary the undertaking at any time, but only with the consent of the Director-General. The consent of the Director-General is required even if the undertaking purports to authorise a withdrawal or variation of the undertaking without that consent.
- (3) If the Director-General considers that the person who gave the undertaking has

breached any of its terms, the Director-General may apply to the Supreme Court for an order under subsection (4).

- (4) If the Supreme Court is satisfied that the person has breached a term of the undertaking, the Court may make all or any of the following orders:
 - (a) an order directing the person to comply with that term of the undertaking,
 - (b) an order directing the person to pay to the State an amount not exceeding the amount of any financial benefit that the person has obtained directly or indirectly and that is reasonably attributable to the breach,
 - (c) any order that the Court considers appropriate directing the person to compensate any other person who has suffered loss or damage as a result of the breach,
 - (d) any other order that the Court considers appropriate.

Part 7 Codes of practice

74 Preparation of draft code of practice

- (1) The Director-General may with the approval of the Minister, and shall if the Minister so directs, prepare for consideration by the Minister a draft code of practice for fair dealing:
 - (a) between a particular class of suppliers and consumers, or
 - (b) by a particular class of persons in relation to consumers.
- (2) For the purpose of preparing a draft code of practice, the Director-General shall arrange for consultation with, and invite submissions from, such persons and organisations as, in the opinion of the Director-General, would have an interest in the terms of the proposed draft code of practice.
- (3) If the Director-General is satisfied that associated persons in a field of trade or commerce have, in consultation with organisations representing consumers and other interested persons, agreed to abide by a particular code of practice in their dealings with or in relation to consumers, the Director-General may submit the code to the Minister for consideration together with any recommendations by the Director-General with respect to amendments to the code.

75 Regulations—codes of practice

- (1) Except as provided by subsection (2), the regulations may prescribe a code of practice that:
 - (a) has been submitted to the Minister in accordance with section 74, and
 - (b) has been approved by the Minister with or without amendments.

(2) A code of practice may be prescribed as an interim code of practice to remain in force for a specified period not exceeding 6 months.

(3) An interim code of practice has effect while it remains in force even if no action in relation to the code has been, or is, taken or concluded in accordance with section 74.

75A Amendment of codes of practice

(1) A code of practice prescribed under section 75 may be amended by the regulations, in accordance with this section.

(2) An amendment to a code of practice may be made only with the approval of the Minister.

(3) A code of practice which is not an interim code of practice is not to be amended unless:

(a) the amendment has been submitted to the Minister in accordance with section 74 as if it were a draft code of practice, or

(b) the Director-General has certified in writing that the amendment is of a minor or inconsequential nature and that compliance with section 74 is not required.

(4) An amendment may be approved by the Minister with or without alteration.

76 Undertakings following contravention of code

If it appears to the Director-General that a person has carried on business in contravention of a prescribed code of practice applicable to the person, the Director-General may request the person to execute within a specified time a deed in terms approved by the Director-General under which the person gives undertakings as to:

(a) discontinuance of the conduct,

(b) future compliance with the code of practice, and

(c) the action the person will take to rectify the consequences of the contravention, or any of them.

77 Register of Undertakings

(1) Where a person executes a deed under section 76, the Director-General shall:

(a) lodge a copy of the deed with the Registrar of the Tribunal, and

(b) give a copy of the deed to the person who executed it.

(2) The Director-General shall retain all deeds and shall register the deeds in a Register of Undertakings kept by the Director-General and containing the prescribed particulars.

- (3) The Register of Undertakings may, at any reasonable time, be inspected by any person free of charge.

78 Order by Tribunal relating to code of practice

- (1) If a person fails to comply with a request by the Director-General for the giving by the person of an undertaking under section 76, the Tribunal may, on the application of the Director-General and on being satisfied that there were grounds for requesting the undertaking, order the person:
- (a) to act in a manner that would have been required, or
 - (b) to refrain from acting in a manner that would have been prohibited,
- by the undertaking if it had been given.
- (2) If, on the application of the Director-General, the Tribunal is satisfied that a person has failed to observe an undertaking given by the person under section 76, the Tribunal may make an order under subsection (3).
- (3) The Tribunal may order the person:
- (a) to observe the undertaking, and
 - (b) in the case of an undertaking to rectify the consequence of a contravention of a code of practice—to observe the undertaking within a time specified by the Tribunal in the order.
- (4) If:
- (a) the failure on which an application under subsection (1) or (2) is based is a failure by a body corporate, and
 - (b) the Tribunal is satisfied that the failure occurred with the consent or connivance of a person who, at the time of the failure, was a director of the body corporate or a person concerned in its management,
- the Tribunal may, in addition to any other order, make an order under subsection (5).
- (5) The Tribunal may make an order prohibiting the person from:
- (a) continuing to consent to, or connive at, the failure, or
 - (b) consenting to, or conniving at, a like failure by any other body corporate of which the person is a director or in the management of which the person is concerned.
- (6) An order under this section may be made subject to such conditions (whether as to the duration of the order or otherwise) as the Tribunal thinks fit including:
- (a) conditions as to the future conduct of the person affected, and

- (b) conditions specifying the action to be taken by the person to rectify the consequences of the failure the subject of the application under this section.

78A Orders on application of affected person

- (1) A person may apply to the Tribunal for an order under this section if:
 - (a) a prescribed code of practice applies in respect of the person, and
 - (b) the application relates to a contravention or alleged contravention of the code of practice that has adversely affected the person, and
 - (c) the application is made with the approval of the Director-General.
- (2) On an application under this section, the Tribunal may, if satisfied that a person has contravened a prescribed code of practice, order the person to do either or both of the following:
 - (a) discontinue the contravention,
 - (b) take specified action to rectify the consequences of the contravention.
- (3) (Repealed)
- (4) In proceedings before the Tribunal under this section, a certificate, purporting to have been signed by the Director-General and certifying as to the granting of approval to the application, is evidence of that approval.
- (5) If the Tribunal is satisfied that a contravention to which an application under this section relates was by a body corporate and occurred with the consent or connivance of a person who, at the time of the contravention, was a director of the body corporate or a person concerned in its management, the Tribunal may make, in addition to any other order:
 - (a) an order prohibiting the person from continuing to consent to, or to connive at, the contravention, or
 - (b) an order prohibiting the person from consenting to, or conniving at, a like contravention by any other body corporate of which the person is a director or in the management of which the person is concerned.
- (6) An order under this section may be made subject to such conditions (whether as to the duration of the order or otherwise) as the Tribunal thinks fit including:
 - (a) conditions as to the future conduct of the person affected, and
 - (b) conditions specifying the action to be taken by the person to rectify the consequences of the contravention the subject of the application under this section.

- (7) This section does not apply in respect of a code of practice unless the regulations state, or the code of practice itself states, that this section applies to the code of practice.

79 Variation or discharge of orders

- (1) The Tribunal may, on the application of the Director-General, vary or discharge an order made under section 78.
- (2) The Tribunal may, on the application of the Director-General, the person on whose application the order was originally made or any person against whom the order was made, vary or discharge an order made under section 78A.

79A Jurisdictional overlap

- (1) The Tribunal has no jurisdiction to hear or determine an issue arising under an application made to it under this Part if:
- (a) the issue is the subject of a dispute in proceedings before a court unless those proceedings have been stayed under this section, or
 - (b) the issue has been decided by a court in proceedings in which the issue was in dispute.
- (2) A decision by a court is to be disregarded for the purposes of subsection (1) if:
- (a) a court of record has, on a judicial review, quashed or declared invalid the decision, or the proceedings in which it was made, on the ground that the court had no jurisdiction to hear and determine the issue, or
 - (b) the decision has been otherwise overturned.
- (3) If a court before which proceedings are pending becomes aware that an issue that is the subject of a dispute in the proceedings is an issue arising under an application to the Tribunal under this Part, the court may stay the proceedings if of the opinion that the issue would be more appropriately determined by the Tribunal under this Part.

- (4) In this section:

court means a court, tribunal, board, or other body or person authorised by law, or by consent of parties, to decide or resolve, whether through arbitration or conciliation or other means, any issue that is in dispute.

Part 8 General

Division 1 Evidence

80 Evidence as to publication

(1) In any proceedings under this Act:

- (a) where a published statement is intended, or apparently intended, to promote the supply or use of any goods or services, or the sale or grant of an interest in land, and
- (b) a name, business name, address, telephone number, post office box number or newspaper office reply number specified in the statement is that of a person, or the agent of a person, who:
 - (i) is the owner, whether alone or jointly with another person or other persons, of the goods or interest in land,
 - (ii) is the supplier of the goods or services,
 - (iii) has an interest, otherwise than as owner, in the goods, or
 - (iv) has an interest, otherwise than as supplier, in the supply of the services,

it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is established, that the person or agent, as the case may be, caused the statement to be published.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a person who causes a statement to be published shall be deemed to have done so on each day on which the statement is published.

81 Allegation as to consumer

If it is alleged in any proceedings under this Act, or in any other proceedings in respect of a matter arising under this Act, that a person was at any time a consumer in relation to any particular goods, services or land, it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that the person was at that time a consumer in relation to the goods, services, or land.

82 Certificate of analyst

(1) In any proceedings under this Act, a certificate purporting to have been signed by a prescribed authority, or by an officer on behalf of the prescribed authority, is, without proof of the signature or of the official character of the person by whom the certificate was signed, evidence of the facts certified unless the defendant requires the person who signed the certificate to be called as a witness in the proceedings.

(2) In this section:

prescribed authority means:

- (a) the Government Analyst, or
- (b) a registered laboratory of the National Association of Testing Authorities.

83 Evidence of standards etc

In any proceedings under this Act, a printed document that purports:

- (a) to be a standard, rule, code or specification of an association or body referred to in, or prescribed under, section 92 (2), and
 - (b) to have been published or issued by or on behalf of that association or body,
- is evidence of that standard, rule, code or specification.

84 Evidence as to certain matters

In any legal proceedings, whether or not they are proceedings under this Act:

- (a) a certificate purporting to have been signed by the Director-General and to the effect:
 - (i) that a specified person was, during a specified period, an investigator or an authorised person,
 - (ii) that a specified person was, during a specified period, an authorised officer for the purposes of section 64, or
 - (iii) that specified legislation was, during a specified period, administered by the Minister,

is evidence of the matter certified without proof of the signature or of the official character of the person by whom the certificate purports to have been signed, and

- (b) it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that the opinion of the Director-General necessary for any of the purposes of this Act was duly formed.

85 Permission, consent or approval of Minister

- (1) In any legal proceedings a certificate purporting to have been signed by the Minister or the Director-General and to the effect that a specified authority, permission or consent of the purported signatory was or was not given is, without proof of the signature or official character of the person by whom the certificate was signed, evidence of the matter certified.
- (2) In any legal proceedings, it shall be presumed, unless evidence is given to the contrary, that any authority, permission or consent of the Minister required before the exercise of a function by the Director-General has been given.

Division 2 Miscellaneous

86 Intervention by Minister

- (1) The Minister may, at any stage of proceedings brought before a Court under:
 - (a) this Act, or
 - (b) any other legislation administered by the Minister,intervene in the proceedings.
- (2) Where the Minister intervenes in proceedings, the Minister:
 - (a) becomes a party to the proceedings, and
 - (b) has all the rights, including rights of appeal, of a party to the proceedings.

86A Public warning statements

- (1) The Minister or the Director-General may make or issue a public statement identifying and giving warnings or information about any of the following:
 - (a) goods that are unsatisfactory or dangerous and persons who supply those goods,
 - (b) services supplied in an unsatisfactory manner and persons who supply those services,
 - (c) unfair business practices and persons who engage in those practices,
 - (d) any other matter that adversely affects or may adversely affect the interests of persons in connection with the acquisition by them of goods or services from suppliers.
- (2) Such a statement can identify particular goods, services, business practices and persons.
- (3) The Minister or the Director-General is not to make or issue a statement under this section unless satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so.

87 Publication of certain statements prohibited

- (1) Except in the case of a statement published with the consent of the Minister, or of a person authorised by the Minister to give the consent, a person shall not publish, or cause to be published, a statement that is intended, or apparently intended, to promote the supply or use of goods or services, or the sale or grant of interests in land, if the statement makes reference to:
 - (a) the Minister,

- (b) the Department,
- (c) the Director-General,
- (d) a person or organisation prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section, being a person or organisation in existence at, or at any time before, the prescription, or
- (e) a person who is, or was, employed by the Department, or by a person referred to in paragraph (d), or by an organisation so referred to.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (2) A reference in subsection (1) (d) to a person or organisation includes a reference to a person appointed, or an organisation constituted, under an Act of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth.

88 Service of notices etc

- (1) A notice or direction in writing that is required or permitted to be given under this Act may be given:
 - (a) to a person other than a body corporate:
 - (i) by giving it to the person himself or herself,
 - (ii) by leaving it at his or her place of residence with someone who apparently resides there and has apparently reached the age of 16 years,
 - (iii) by leaving it at his or her place of employment or business with someone who is apparently employed there and has apparently reached the age of 16 years, or
 - (iv) by posting it in a letter addressed to him or her at the address last known to the Director-General of his or her place of residence, employment or business, or
 - (b) to a body corporate:
 - (i) by giving it to the secretary of the body corporate, or any other person concerned in the management of the body corporate, personally,
 - (ii) by leaving it at the body corporate's only or principal place of business with someone who is apparently employed there and has apparently reached the age of 16 years, or
 - (iii) by posting it in a letter addressed to the body corporate at the address last known to the Director-General of its only or principal place of business.

- (2) Subsection (1) (b) does not limit anything in section 109X or 601CX of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth.

89 Saving of rights and remedies

- (1) Except to the extent that this Act otherwise expressly provides, this Act does not limit, restrict or otherwise affect any right or remedy a person would have had if this Act had not been enacted.
- (2) Subject to any order under section 72, if the making of a contract contravenes a provision of this Act by reason of the inclusion in the contract of a provision that is severable, nothing in this Act affects the validity or enforcement of the contract otherwise than in relation to that provision.

90 Repeals

Each Act specified in Schedule 3 is, to the extent specified in that Schedule, repealed.

91 Savings and transitional provisions

Schedule 5 has effect.

92 Regulations

- (1) The Governor may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, for or with respect to any matter that by this Act is required or permitted to be prescribed, or that is necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.
- (1A) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to the procedure for the calling and holding of meetings of an advisory council.
- (2) A regulation may apply, adopt or incorporate, wholly or in part, and with or without modification, any standard, rule, code or specification of Standards Australia, the British Standards Institution or any other association or body and may classify or describe anything by reference to a diagram, illustration or photograph.
- (3) A regulation may create an offence punishable by a penalty not exceeding 10 penalty units.
- (4) A provision of a regulation may:
- (a) apply generally or be limited in its application by reference to specified exceptions or factors,
 - (b) apply differently according to different factors of a specified kind, or
 - (c) may authorise any matter or thing to be from time to time determined, applied or regulated by a specified person or body,

or may do any combination of those things.

93 (Repealed)

Schedule 1 Paramount legislation

(Section 4 (6))

Civil Liability Act 2002
Dairy Industry Act 2000
Dangerous Goods Act 1975
Electricity Safety Act 1945
Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985
Fertilisers Act 1985
Food Act 1989
Local Government Act 1993
Marketing of Primary Products Act 1983
Plant Diseases Act 1924
Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966
Public Health Act 1991
Radiation Control Act 1990
Seeds Act 1982
Stock Foods Act 1940
Stock Medicines Act 1989

Schedule 2 Acts prohibiting or regulating the supply of goods

(Section 28)

Dangerous Goods Act 1975
Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985
Fertilisers Act 1985
Food Act 1989
Plant Diseases Act 1924
Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966
Radiation Control Act 1990
Seeds Act 1982
Stock Foods Act 1940
Stock Medicines Act 1989

Schedule 3 Repeals

(Section 90)

Consumer Protection Act 1969 No 28—the whole Act
Supreme Court Act 1970 No 52—so much of the Second Schedule as amended Act No 28, 1969
Dangerous Goods Act 1975 No 68—so much of Schedule 2 as amended Act No 28, 1969
Metric Conversion Act 1975 No 72—Items 166, 167 and 168 of the Schedule
Pyramid Sales Act 1974 No 33—the whole Act
Unsolicited Goods and Services Act 1974 No 89—the whole Act
Referral Selling Act 1974 No 102—the whole Act

Pesticides and Allied Chemicals Act 1978 No 57—section 78

Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act 1978 No 60—the whole Act

Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act 1981 No 12—the whole Act

Miscellaneous Acts (Companies) Amendment Act 1981 No 123—so much of Schedule 8 as amended Act No 28, 1969 and Act No 89, 1974

Miscellaneous Acts (Local Courts) Amendment Act 1982 No 168—so much of Schedule 1 as amended Act No 33, 1974

Miscellaneous Acts (Credit) Repeal and Amendment Act 1984 No 100—so much of Schedule 2 as amended Act No 28, 1969

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1984 No 153—so much of Schedule 16 as amended Act No 60, 1978

Consumer Protection (Motor Dealers) Amendment Act 1985 No 105—the whole Act

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1985 No 231—so much of Schedule 31 as amended Act No 28, 1969

Schedule 4 Provisions applicable to Products Safety Committee

(Section 24)

1 Appointment and tenure of office of members

- (1) Subject to subclauses (3), (4) and (5), a member of the Committee holds and vacates office in accordance with the terms of the appointment or reappointment of the member.
- (2) On the expiration of any period of appointment or reappointment, a member of the Committee may be reappointed for a further period.
- (3) A member of the Committee may at any time resign from the Committee by notice in writing addressed to the Minister and delivered to the Director-General.
- (4) The Minister may at any time remove from office a member of the Committee by notice in writing addressed and delivered to the member.
- (5) The Chairperson of the Committee vacates office as a member of the Committee on ceasing to be an officer.
- (6) The Executive Officer of the Committee vacates office as a member of the Committee on ceasing to be an officer.

2 Deputies of members

If a member referred to in section 24 (2) (c) is unable to carry out duties as a member of the Committee for any period, the Minister may appoint another person who, in the opinion of the Minister, has expertise in product safety to act in the place of the member for that period, and a person so appointed shall, during that period, be deemed to be a member of the Committee.

3 Co-opted members

- (1) The Committee, with the prior approval of the Minister, may co-opt any person who, in its opinion, has expertise in relation to a question referred to it under section 28.
- (2) A person co-opted under subclause (1) shall, when attending a meeting of the Committee, be deemed to be a member of the Committee and has a right to vote and participate in the Committee's proceedings.

4 Remuneration

A member of the Committee is entitled to be paid such remuneration (including travelling and subsistence allowances) as the Minister may from time to time determine in respect of the member.

5 Effect of certain other Acts

Where by or under any other Act provision is made requiring a person who is the holder of an office specified in the Act to devote the whole of his or her time to the duties of that office, or prohibiting the person from engaging in employment outside the duties of that office, that provision shall not operate to disqualify the person from holding that office and also the office of a member or from accepting and retaining any remuneration payable to the person under this Act as a member of the Committee.

6 General procedure

The procedure for the calling of meetings of the Committee and for the conduct of business at those meetings shall be as determined by the Committee.

7 Voting

A decision supported by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the Committee shall be the decision of the Committee.

8 Minutes

The Committee shall cause full and accurate minutes to be kept of the proceedings at each meeting of the Committee.

Schedule 4A Provisions relating to advisory councils

(Sections 25B, 25E, 25H, 25K, 25N)

1 Chairperson

- (1) The Minister may appoint an appointed member of an advisory council as its Chairperson.
- (2) An appointment of an appointed member of an advisory council as its Chairperson may be for a specified or unspecified term, but may be revoked at any time by the

Minister in writing for any or no reason.

- (3) Such a revocation of appointment as Chairperson of an advisory council does not of itself affect a person's tenure of office as an appointed member of the advisory council.

2 Acting members

- (1) The Minister may, from time to time, appoint a person to act in the office of an appointed member of an advisory council during the illness or absence of the member. The person, while so acting, has and may exercise all the functions of the appointed member and is taken to be an appointed member of the council.
- (2) Subclause (1) extends to the office and functions of Chairperson of an advisory council, but the Minister may instead appoint another appointed member of the council to act in the office of Chairperson.
- (3) The Minister may remove any person from any office to which the person was appointed under this clause at any time for any or no reason.
- (4) For the purposes of this clause, a vacancy in the office of an appointed member is taken to be an absence from office of the member.

3 Terms of office

Subject to this Schedule, an appointed member of an advisory council holds office for such period not exceeding 3 years as may be specified in the instrument of appointment of the member, but is eligible (if otherwise qualified) for re-appointment.

4 Allowances

A member of an advisory council is entitled to be paid such allowances as the Minister from time to time determines in respect of the member.

5 Vacancies

- (1) The office of an appointed member of an advisory council becomes vacant if the member:
 - (a) dies, or
 - (b) completes a term of office and is not re-appointed, or
 - (c) resigns the office by letter addressed to the Minister, or
 - (d) is removed by the Minister from office under this clause, or
 - (e) is absent from 3 consecutive meetings of the council of which reasonable notice has been given to the member personally or in the ordinary course of post, except

on leave granted by the Minister or unless, before the expiration of 4 weeks after the last of those meetings, the member is excused by the Minister for having been absent from those meetings, or

- (f) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes an assignment of his or her remuneration for their benefit, or
- (g) becomes a mentally incapacitated person, or
- (h) is convicted in New South Wales of an offence that is punishable by imprisonment for 12 months or more or is convicted elsewhere than in New South Wales of an offence that, if committed in New South Wales, would be an offence so punishable.

(2) The Minister may remove an appointed member from office as a member of an advisory council at any time for any or no reason.

6 Filling of vacancy

- (1) If the office of an appointed member of an advisory council becomes vacant, a person is, subject to this Act, required to be appointed to fill the vacancy.
- (2) The appointment must be made within 2 months of the office becoming vacant, or such longer time as the Minister considers appropriate in the circumstances.

7 Disclosure of pecuniary interests

(1) A member of an advisory council:

- (a) who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered at a meeting of the council, and
- (b) whose interest appears to raise a conflict with the proper performance of the member's duties in relation to the consideration of the matter,

must, as soon as possible after the relevant facts have come to the member's knowledge, disclose the nature of the interest at a meeting of the council.

(2) A disclosure by a member of an advisory council at a meeting of the council that the member:

- (a) is a member, or in the employment, of a specified company or other body, or
- (b) is a partner, or in the employment, of a specified person, or
- (c) has some other specified interest relating to a specified company or other body or to a specified person,

is a sufficient disclosure of the nature of the interest in any matter relating to the

company or other body or to that person that may arise after the date of the disclosure and that is required to be disclosed under this clause.

- (3) Particulars of any disclosure made under this clause must be recorded by the members of the advisory council in a book to be kept for the purpose and that book must be open at all reasonable hours to inspection by any person on payment of the fee determined by the members.

8 Effect of certain other Acts

- (1) The *Public Sector Management Act 1988* does not apply to the appointment of an appointed member of an advisory council. An appointed member is not, as an appointed member, subject to that Act.
- (2) If by or under any Act provision is made:
 - (a) requiring a person who is the holder of a specified office to devote the whole of his or her time to the duties of that office, or
 - (b) prohibiting the person from engaging in employment outside the duties of that office,

the provision does not operate to disqualify the person from holding that office and also the office of a member of an advisory council or from accepting and retaining any remuneration payable to the person under this Act as a member of an advisory council.

- (3) The office of appointed member of an advisory council is for the purposes of any Act taken not be an office or place of profit under the Crown.

9 General procedure

The procedure for the calling of meetings of an advisory council and the conduct of those meetings of the council is, subject to this Act and the regulations and any directions of the Minister, to be determined by the council. The Minister may give such directions for this purpose as the Minister thinks fit.

10 Meetings

An advisory council is required to meet 4 times during each calendar year. However, an advisory council may hold additional meetings as approved by the Minister, and is required to do so as directed by the Minister.

11 Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of an advisory council is a majority of its members for the time being.

12 Presiding member

- (1) A meeting of an advisory council is to be chaired by:
 - (a) the Chairperson of the council, or
 - (b) in the absence of the Chairperson (including a person appointed under clause 2 to act as Chairperson), another appointed member of the council elected to chair the meeting by a majority of the members of the council present.
- (2) The member chairing any meeting of an advisory council has a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, has a second or casting vote.

13 Voting

A decision supported by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of an advisory council at which a quorum is present is the decision of the council.

14 Transaction of business outside meetings or by telephone or other means

- (1) An advisory council may, if it thinks fit, transact any of its business by the circulation of papers among all the members of the council for the time being. A resolution in writing approved by a majority of those members is taken to be a decision of the council.
- (2) An advisory council may, if it thinks fit, transact any of its business at a meeting at which members (or some members) participate by telephone, close-circuit television or other means, but only if any member who speaks on a matter before the meeting can be heard by the other members.
- (3) For the purposes of:
 - (a) the approval of a resolution under subclause (1), or
 - (b) a meeting held in accordance with subclause (2),the Chairperson and each member have the same voting rights as they have at an ordinary meeting of the council.
- (4) A resolution approved under subclause (1) is, subject to the regulations, to be recorded in the minutes of the meetings of the advisory council.
- (5) Papers may be circulated among members for the purposes of subclause (1) by facsimile or other transmission of the information in the papers concerned.

15 Minutes

- (1) An advisory council must cause full and accurate minutes to be kept of the proceedings of each meeting of the council.

- (2) The advisory council is to cause a copy of the minutes of each meeting to be forwarded to the Minister within 14 days after the meeting.

16 First meeting

The first meeting of an advisory council is to be called in such manner as the Minister determines.

Schedule 5 Savings and transitional provisions

(Section 91)

1 Interpretation

In this Schedule:

appointed day means the day appointed and notified under section 2 (2).

repealed Act means the *Consumer Protection Act 1969* as in force immediately before the appointed day.

2 Commissioner for Consumer Affairs

The person who, immediately before the appointed day, held office under the *Public Service Act 1979* as Commissioner for Consumer Affairs continues on and after the appointed day to hold that office subject to that Act and to the terms and conditions applicable immediately before that day in relation to the office.

3 Delegation

A delegation in force immediately before the appointed day under section 15A of the repealed Act continues in force on and after that day as if it were a delegation under section 8 of this Act.

4 Investigating officers and inspectors

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, an investigating officer or inspector holding office under the repealed Act immediately before the appointed day shall be deemed to have been appointed as an investigator by order of the Minister under this Act.
- (2) If the repealed Act had continued in force on and after the appointed day and an investigating officer or inspector holding office under that Act could have exercised a function in relation to a matter arising under it, an investigator may act in relation to the matter as if it had arisen under this Act.

5 Products Safety Committee

Where, immediately before the appointed day, a person held office:

- (a) as Chairperson of the Products Safety Committee under the repealed Act, or

(b) as a member (not being the Chairperson) of that Committee,

the person continues on and after that day as Chairperson or member of the Products Safety Committee under and subject to this Act on the terms and conditions on which the office was held immediately before that day.

6 Enforcement of certain convictions or orders

Section 57A of the repealed Act as in force at the time of a conviction or order before the appointed day under that Act or any other Act administered by the Minister continues on and after the appointed day to apply in relation to the conviction or order as if this Act had not been enacted and, for that purpose, that section shall be deemed to have operated as if such a conviction or order made by the District Court under section 125 (1) of the [Justices Act 1902](#) had been made by a court of petty sessions or Local Court at the place at which it was made by the District Court.

7 Regulations etc under repealed Act

- (1) Where a regulation or order in force under the repealed Act immediately before the appointed day could have been made under this Act if this Act had been in force at the time the regulation or order was made, the regulation or order continues in force on and after the appointed day as if it had been made under this Act and may be revoked or varied by a regulation or order made under this Act.
- (2) A regulation or order continued in force by subsection (1) shall be construed as if a reference in the regulation or order to a provision of the repealed Act were a reference to the corresponding provision of this Act.

8 Effect of [Interpretation Act 1897](#)

Section 91 and this Schedule have effect in addition to, and do not derogate from, the operation of section 8 of the [Interpretation Act 1897](#) or section 30 of the [Interpretation Act 1987](#).

9 References to repealed Acts

A reference in any other Act or instrument to the repealed Act or any other Act repealed by this Act shall be read as a reference to this Act.

10 General

- (1) Where anything done or commenced under the repealed Act before the appointed day and still having effect or not completed immediately before that day could have been done or commenced under this Act if it had been in force at the time the thing was done or commenced, the thing done continues to have effect, or the thing commenced may be completed, as if it had been done or commenced under this Act.
- (2) Subclause (1) does not apply to anything in relation to which other provision is made

by this Schedule.

11 Interpretation Act 1987

A reference in a provision of this Act to sections 40 and 41 of the *Interpretation Act 1987* shall, until the commencement of that Act, be read as a reference to section 41 of the *Interpretation Act 1897* and a reference in the provision to a statutory rule shall be read as a reference to a regulation.

11A Fair Trading (Lay-by) Amendment Act 1993

Part 5B (Lay-by Sales) of this Act does not apply to a lay-by sale within the meaning of the *Lay-by Sales Act 1943* made before the repeal of that Act and that Act continues to apply to the sale as if it had not been repealed.

11B Fair Trading Amendment Act 1995

- (1) A person may make an application under section 12, and the Commissioner may grant an application under section 13, as amended by the *Fair Trading Amendment Act 1995*, in relation to acts, matters or things arising, and legal proceedings commenced but not completed, before the commencement of that Act.
- (2) However, a person may not apply for, and the Commissioner may not grant, legal assistance in relation to any such act, matter or thing or proceedings if the Commissioner has previously refused to grant the legal assistance.

11C Fair Trading Legislation Amendment Act 1997

- (1) In this clause, **amending Act** means the *Fair Trading Legislation Amendment Act 1997*.
- (2) The Property Services Council, Home Building Advisory Council and Motor Dealers Council are abolished on the commencement of the provisions of the amending Act repealing the provisions that respectively constitute them.
- (3) A person ceases to hold office as member or Chairperson of such a council on the abolition of the council concerned. The person is not entitled to be paid any remuneration or compensation by reason of ceasing to hold any such office.
- (4) The Property Services Council Statutory Interest Account is to be closed on the establishment of the Property Services Statutory Interest Account under the *Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 1941*, as amended by the amending Act.
- (5) The Property Services Council Compensation Fund is to be closed on the establishment of the Property Services Compensation Fund under the *Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 1941*, as amended by the amending Act.
- (6) The Property Services Council Administration Account is to be closed by the Director-

General on the repeal by the amending Act of section 25 of the *Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 1941*, and the amount standing to its credit is to be paid to the Department of Fair Trading Operating Account.

- (7) Section 64C of the *Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 1941*, as inserted by the amending Act, extends to claims, expenses and costs incurred in connection with the Property Services Council Compensation Fund before the commencement of that section.

12 Regulations

- (1) The regulations may contain other provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of this Act or the *Fair Trading (Lay-by) Amendment Act 1993* or the following Acts:

Fair Trading Amendment Act 1995

Fair Trading Legislation Amendment Act 1997

Fair Trading Amendment (Employment Placement Services) Act 2002

- (2) A provision referred to in subclause (1) may, if the regulations so provide, take effect from the appointed day or a later date.
- (3) To the extent to which a provision referred to in subclause (1) takes effect from a date that is earlier than the date of its publication in the Gazette, the provision does not operate:
- (a) to affect, in a manner prejudicial to any person (other than the State or an authority of the State), the rights of that person existing before the date of its publication therein, or
 - (b) to impose liabilities on any person (other than the State or an authority of the State) in respect of anything done or omitted to be done before the date of its publication therein.
- (4) A provision referred to in subclause (1) shall, if the regulations so provide, have effect notwithstanding any other clause of this Schedule.