

Question on Notice
No. 1085
Asked on 28 September 2004

MR LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development (Ms Keech)—

QUESTION:

What, if any, system has the Office of Fair Trading put in place to allow people buying used motor vehicles to ensure they are not encumbered?

ANSWER:

I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this most important community issue.

The Beattie government recognises the significance of the ownership of a motor vehicle, and the fact that the purchase of a motor vehicle is generally the biggest financial outlay anyone will make apart from the purchase of a family home.

Understandably, the provision of finance for the purchase of motor vehicles is of itself a huge industry. Loans advanced for the purchase of motor vehicles are usually secured against the motor vehicles.

The Register of Encumbered Vehicles, or REVS, maintained under the *Motor Vehicles and Boats Securities Act 1986* provides surety to intended purchasers of used motor vehicles, as they can, for a very modest price of around \$10, undertake a search of REVS and obtain a security interest certificate which provides details whether a particular motor vehicle has a security interest registered against it.

To obtain a REVS certificate, all a member of the public has to do is to contact the Office of Fair Trading with their credit card details and the vehicle's registration, identification and engine numbers, and they can find out on the spot whether the vehicle is encumbered. The next day they will receive a confirming REVS certificate in the mail.

The Office of Fair Trading is currently running a press advertising campaign promoting the REVS service in 60 Queensland metropolitan and regional newspapers from 10 July 2004 until 29 October 2004. The key message targets consumers who are about to buy a vehicle, by advising them to conduct a REVS check to ascertain if the title on the vehicle they are going to purchase is clear. The ads run in the used car classified sections.

The importance of maintaining the REVS register is clearly highlighted by the fact that for the year ending 30 June 2004, some 850,000 REVS certificates were issued by the Office of Fair Trading. As an added benefit to the community, Queensland participates with New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia in the exchange of data regarding the registration of security interests in any one of the participating states.

The Office of Fair Trading is currently in discussions with New South Wales and Victoria regarding the introduction of a national REVS database and there is an expectation that Western Australia and Tasmania will join in the new system, which will result in a truly national register of motor vehicle security interests.

As an added protection to the community, the *Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000*, which was introduced by the Beattie Government, makes it mandatory for licensed auctioneers and motor dealers to provide a purchaser with a copy of a current REVS certificate whenever a vehicle is sold.