Minister responsible for Consumer Affairs, Dr Peter Toyne, today urged Territory business operators to avoid paying a bogus advertising invoice being distributed across the Territory.

"The invoice, for approximately $US 995, is from a Swiss-based group called IT & T International Business Directories," he said.

"It seeks payment for a company's business name being advertised in a supposed international facsimile directory.

"$US 995 is nearly $A 2000, so any business advertising their facsimile number at that cost would want to be sure of obtaining some clientele from the directory."

"There is no evidence this directory is ever published which makes this invoice scheme a straight-forward scam."

Consumer Affairs Commissioner, Gary Clements, today encouraged any business receiving an IT & T invoice to avoid paying it.

"Bogus invoices should be forwarded to Consumer Affairs through PO Box 1722 Darwin - vigilance is the best policy when it comes to processing invoices," he said.

"IT & T even sent an invoice to Consumer Affairs for payment."

**Media Note: A copy of the invoice is available on request.**