

Warning of Travelling Con Men across Australia - Alert

There are travelling con men moving around Australia offering cheap sealing and asphaltting of driveways. These con men, sometimes called itinerant traders or bitumen bandits, knock on the door of unsuspecting residents, particularly the elderly and those in outer urban or rural areas, offering a cheap job using asphalt left over from a previous job. The con men usually advise that the work must be done immediately and demand payment on the same day. They put considerable pressure on residents to say yes.

These con men not only impact our community but also damage the reputation of the asphalt industry.

Several State Government Consumer Affairs Departments run programs warning people about travelling con men. AAPA is working with Consumer Affairs across Australia to warn the public of the con men and help stop this activity.

Access these Departments via their websites.

[Victoria – Consumer Affairs Victoria](#)

[New South Wales – NSW Fair Trading](#) call 13 32 20

[Western Aust. – Dept of Commerce](#)

[South Australia – Office of Consumer and Business Affairs](#)

[Queensland – Office of Fair Trading](#)

If you suspect travelling con men are in your area, call the National Hotline 1300 133 408.)

[Facebook.com/stoptravellingconmen](#) or by using #stopconmen on [Twitter](#)

What should I look out for?

Be suspicious of people who:

- knock on your door unexpectedly
- offer cheap deals using words like 'for today only'
- ask for cash up front
- offer to drive you to the bank to get money for payment
- make you feel pressured to accept their offer.

Protect yourself and your community

- If you suspect a travelling con man is knocking, don't open your door.
- If you do speak to them, ask them to leave. If they refuse, they're breaking the law.
- Record as much information as you can, such as their name and vehicle registration, and report them.
- Don't be tempted by unexpected cheap deals – they may be much more expensive in the long run.

If you decide you need work done on your house, you should:

- refer to this website for more information – Technical – Driveway and Pathways
- shop around and only use established tradespeople who provide written quotes – refer to Yellow Pages
- do not sign any agreement until you are ready.

Report travelling con men

Call the **national hotline: 1300 133 408** (weekdays 8:30am to 5:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time, Daylight Saving Time) [Facebook.com/stoptravellingconmen](#) or by using #stopconmen on [Twitter](#).