

Talking Law Article – April 2011 Australia's Consumer Protection Laws

As from 1 January 2011 the *Trades Practices Act 1974* was renamed the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth)* ("**the New Act**") which incorporates a schedule known as the *Australian Consumer Law*.

One of the main reforms to the New Act is in relation to consumer guarantees. Consumer guarantees are a set of rights in relation to the supply of goods and services to consumers. The consumer guarantees are provided to a consumer every time they purchase, lease or hire a good or service, anywhere around Australia. For goods and services purchased before 1 January 2011 consumers have rights under the old laws. An example of a right in relation to the supply of a good to a consumer is that it must match the product description accurately.

If a product fails to meet a consumer guarantee, the consumer may be entitled to a replacement, repair, refund or other remedy.

This article is for general information and is not to be taken as specific legal advice. If you require advice on any matters relating to Consumer Law, please contact Dawes and Vary Pty Ltd.

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