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ASIC

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

ASIC STOPS UNLICENSED INSURANCE AGENT

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) today obtained interim injunctions in the Perth Federal Court preventing Ronald Neil Dods from acting as an insurance agent or broker, offering insurance, or accepting money for insurance premiums.

ASIC is seeking permanent injunctions against Mr Dods for engaging in misleading and deceptive conduct in offering insurance to customers of his business while not licensed as an insurance agent or broker, and obtained these orders as part of that action. The interim injunctions will remain in place pending the trial of ASIC's civil action against Mr Dods.

Mr Dods operates a removal business in Western Australia under the name of "Mandurah Moving 2000" and "Universal Moving".

ASIC alleges that over a number of years Mr Dods offered to arrange insurance for his clients to cover any loss or damage to their goods while in transit, accepted premiums from them for this purpose, but in many cases kept the premium funds for his own benefit and did not arrange their insurance cover.

ASIC alleges that in a number of cases customers' goods were damaged in transit and these customers suffered substantial losses as a result of Mr Dods' actions.

ASIC's Director Enforcement WA, Stephen Howell, said that ASIC was concerned that the practice of accepting premiums but failing to arrange the insurance cover may be a common practice within the removal industry.

"ASIC will be making further enquiries into this sort of deception, and we will take action against any person who is found to be misleading consumers in this way.

"People can find themselves out of pocket for large sums of money in cases like this. When purchasing insurance cover, you should always check that the premium and the paperwork has actually been sent on to the insurance company involved.

"ASIC's consumer web site at **www.fido.asic.gov.au** has a wide range of information on insurance, including tips on how to protect your money," Mr Howell said.

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