

CUSTOMS PRESENCE WRAPS UP EVILDOERS



Customs officers in Adelaide have prevented a range of deadly weapons from entering Australia over the Christmas and New Year period.

Among the more sinister goods was a sword with a dagger concealed in the handle and a walking stick with a concealed blade. Other seized items include push knives, a dagger, an extendable baton and a dog collar with protrusions, which could cause serious harm.

All are prohibited imports under Customs Regulations.

Customs Regional Director South Australia Virginia Lynch said, "Despite the increased volume of items coming into Australia over the Christmas and New Year period, Customs was not deterred from maintaining its vigilance over international mail".

"To enable Customs to process the large volumes of Christmas mail, a mobile x-ray unit was deployed to the Adelaide mail exchange.

"This should be a warning to those who try to import these types of weapons - you will be caught," Ms Lynch said.

SHOCKING ITEMS ARE NO JOKE

These cigarette lighters and beer cans (below) are a shocking reminder of the type of prohibited imports that Customs officers come across when checking postal packages from overseas.

They are not what they seem.

They are designed to impart an electric shock to any unsuspecting person who picks them up.

Supposedly novelty items, they were seized by Customs at the Melbourne international mail centre.

The goods were destined for Adelaide addresses but, not surprisingly, they never made it to their destinations.

Customs is charged with preventing such potentially harmful shipments from being imported into Australia.

In some cases people importing swords, firearms, crossbows, daggers, stun guns knives, throwing stars, and numerous similar items that Customs sees on a daily basis are unaware that they are breaching the law.

In other cases there are deliberate attempts to conceal or misdescribe the items to avoid detection by Customs.

The fate of these and other such items, which pose a danger to the community, is destruction.

The owners may also face criminal prosecution.

