

THE BARGAIN



Bob explained that cash simplified his GST calculations.

Being the end of the financial year, it had been a very busy time for Peter lately, having to process last minute invoices, prepare financial reports, as well plan the department's budgets for next year. It was nice to relax over a few beers with his neighbour, Simon at their local pub. He'd just finished telling Simon about the latest of many problems he was having with his home computer.

"Anyway, it's going to cost hundreds to fix. I'm thinking I might as well get a new one, but I'm not sure I can really afford it right now." Peter sighed.

"See that guy over there?" said Simon, looking across the bar, "my brother got a really good deal on a used laptop from him the other day." Peter raised an eyebrow.

"Yeah, I'd say it's best not to ask too many questions," Simon continued. "Just go and have a chat - can't hurt". After a bit of gentle persuasion by Simon, Peter duly wandered over and introduced himself to Bob.

Bob was keen to talk and explained to Peter how he could get him exactly what he wanted at a fraction of the cost in the stores. He had just sold a laptop worth \$4,000 for \$500. It wasn't brand new and it didn't come with any licences or warranties - but it was the next best thing for the price. All Peter had to do was write down exactly what he wanted and Bob would get it. Bob also offered that if Peter found a buyer for a second laptop, he'd give him a cut.

'What a bargain', thought Peter. He was also sure he could convince Jim at work to buy the second laptop. Peter wrote down on a scrap of paper the details of the type of laptop he had seen at work that he'd quite like, his name and daytime telephone number. Bob said he'd be in touch...

One evening, a few weeks later, Peter was surfing the Internet on his new laptop when an e-mail arrived. It was from Simon. Bob had been arrested yesterday for stealing computer hardware from an office building downtown.

These stories are designed to encourage thinking and discussion about Public Service values and standards. They are illustrative stories only and not intended to describe or identify real people in particular situations that have occurred.