

# Tibet calendar causes market furore



**STALLED:** Lara Damiani with a box of the calendars banned from the Rundle Street Market, in the city yesterday and, below, with the Dalai Lama. Main picture: CAMERON RICHARDSON

## ANDREW FENTON

AN ADELAIDE woman selling calendars about Tibet has been banned from the Rundle Street Market for being "too political".

Adelaide City Council refused filmmaker Lara Damiani permission on two separate occasions to set up a stall because the money raised would help fund a documentary about Tibet.

Ten per cent of the proceeds from each calendar goes to the Dickey Orphanage in Lhasa, Tibet.

"I'm absolutely stunned at their response," said Ms Damiani. "I think it's a bit of ignorance on their

part. There's nothing religious or political about this calendar." The calendars feature original photographs taken by Adelaide photographer Claudio Raschella during the filming of *No Currency in Compassion* last year.

The soon to be completed documentary will be narrated by actress Kerry Armstrong and features extracts from an hour-long interview Ms Damiani conducted with the Dalai Lama in Delhi.

Adelaide City Council confirmed it had banned political material from the Sunday market after receiving complaints about a stall set up by Independent MP Kris Hanna

in early 2007. The stall featured information about the plight of the Palestinian people. "I think it's undemocratic," Mr Hanna said.

"If people are willing to pay their money to have a stall and have material that's not inherently offensive, they should be allowed. If it's a message people don't like, so what? They can set up a stall the next week with the other point of view and let people make up their own minds.

Shortly after *The Advertiser* began making inquiries to Adelaide City Council, an officer phoned Ms Damiani offering a meeting early next week to discuss the issue.

