

# News Release

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**Hon Gail Gago**

Minister for State/Local Government  
Relations  
Minister for the Status of Women  
Minister for Consumer Affairs  
Minister for Government Enterprises  
Minister for the City of Adelaide

Friday, 4 June 2010

## **CINEMA GOERS IN REAL LIFE CRIME SAGA**

Cinema goers who are on the *Wallis Cinemas* online database are being warned to check their inbox for scam emails titled *Wallis Cinemas Security*.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) has received reports about a bogus email asking recipients to send copies of personal documents and credit card details.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago says, "It's concerning that this fake email is asking recipients to provide scanned copies of real documents including drivers licences and front and back copies of their credit cards."

"Protect your money and your identity and never give out your personal details even if the email appears to be from a source you know and trust."

"If a stranger approached you on the street and asked you to provide your bank details, the answer would be no. Consumers need to treat the internet in the same way."

"A breach of internet security at *Wallis Cinemas* gave these scammers the opportunity to have access to customer email addresses."

"The email message features the *Wallis Cinemas* logo and advises customers that changes to the online ticket ordering system require them to provide scanned copies of personal documents."

"A genuine business will not email their customers seeking sensitive personal information," says Ms Gago.

The message states that *'failure to comply with these requests will result in the consumer details being sent to the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation'*.

"At this stage OCBA has no reports of any consumers falling for the scam."

"If you have given your account details after receiving one of these emails, you should report it to your bank immediately so they can freeze your account."

"Identity fraud is on the rise and scammers can use a consumer's personal details to take out loans, claim welfare benefits or run up debts in the consumer's name."

“If in any doubt about the source of a dubious email delete the message right away.”

*Wallis Cinemas* has stepped up online security levels and emailed all customers targeted by the scam. It has advised that no credit card details or personal information, besides customer email addresses is stored on its *Wallis Cinemas* customer database.

The scam emails were sent out in the early hours of Wednesday 2 June 2010.

More than 1,000 complaints about scams were reported to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) in 2009. Many of the scams reported involve technology such as email, the Internet or text messages.

To report a suspected scam contact OCBA on 8204 9777, or 131 882 for country callers. More information on scams is available at [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au) or [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)