

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 Government Enterprises
Minister Ast Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Energy

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ELDERLY BEING CAUGHT IN LATEST BANKING SCAMS

The elderly and vulnerable are the latest to be hit by the wave of banking scams that has been striking South Australia according to Consumer Affairs Minister Gail Gago.

“We have received word from the Office for the Aging that pensioners and the elderly have been contacted by scammers, asking for banking details,” Minister Gago says.

The scammers claim to be representing a bank and then ask consumers to verify their credit card details.

“Banks simply do not contact consumers asking for sensitive personal details.

“A bank will never contact a consumer over the phone or via email and ask them to verify or divulge their bank details.

“Scammers are deceptive, inventive and have little regard for the vulnerable members of society, which is why I am urging South Australians to inform and remind their elderly friends and relatives of the perils of being scammed.

“Giving out personal details over the telephone is extremely risky and unless you are 100% certain of who you are dealing with, do not disclose your banking or personal details.”

OCBA has seen an increase in the number of scams emerging, with con artists finding new pretences from recent events such as the Victorian Bushfires and the announcement of the Federal Government’s stimulus package.

“Scams rely on deceiving the unaware. The more we can raise awareness of the latest scams targeting consumers and the faster we can get that information out, the fewer victims we will see.

“This is why I urge consumers to be vigilant and call the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs to report any suspicious phone calls, letters or visits.”

To report a scam contact OCBA on 8204 9777, or 131 882 for regional callers.

More information on scams can be found at www.scamwatch.gov.au or www.ocba.sa.gov.au.