

News Release

www.premier.sa.gov.au



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

Monday, 14th December 2009

WARNING TO JOB SEEKERS

Graduates looking for work and consumers hoping for a career change are warned to be wary of bogus job offers.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago says “Job seekers need to be aware that some employment notices are really a front for scammers wanting to take their money rather than pay them a salary.”

“It is despicable that scammers prey on people who genuinely want to work and need that source of income.”

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) has received almost 80 complaints this year about employment scams, work from home schemes and get-rich-quick schemes.

The scams have been circulated mainly via email, but shady job advertisements have also appeared in magazines, flyers, on posters and on the internet.

One consumer was asked to send \$1,500 to supposedly cover translation charges and service fees to an overseas recruitment agency. Other consumers have been asked to send their bank account details on the pretence that they can be added to the payroll.

“At first glance the job offer may not look like a scam, but if the offer comes out of the blue or consumers are asked to send money or give their bank account details upfront then they should be highly suspicious,” says Minister Gago.

Minister Gago also says consumers should be wary if the job offer includes statements such as ‘little or no experience required’ or ‘earn big money from home’.

“Unfortunately, the old adage of ‘there is no such thing as a free lunch’ should be heeded here,” says Minister Gago.

“School-leavers and those returning to job-hunting after extended periods of time are often the most vulnerable due to their lack of experience.

“Consumers who are new to the job market, such as school or tertiary graduates, or consumers who haven’t applied for a job in a long while need to be extra cautious of these bogus job offers.”

Consumers should contact OCBA if they suspect they have been targeted by a scam. Call 8204 9777 or 131 882 for regional callers or visit www.ocba.sa.gov.au