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## **WARNING ON BOGUS JOB OFFERS**

Summer holiday job-seekers should be on alert for job offers that are “too good to be true”, Consumer Affairs Minister Gail Gago has warned.

Every year the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs receives reports of bogus jobs and Ms Gago said students and first-time job-seekers in particular needed to take care when responding to job offers.

“Many people – particularly students and school-leavers – join the job market at this time of year,” Ms Gago said.

“But unfortunately there are traps out there, with scammers waiting to take advantage of enthusiastic job-seekers.”

Ms Gago said most job scams came in the form of emails, but flyers, posters and advertisements in magazines had been uncovered from time to time.

“Unfortunately some job offers are really the work of crafty scammers who ask for money to cover supposed recruiting costs or are looking to access people’s bank account details,” she said.

The job scams often promote the opportunity to ‘earn big dollars from home’ or state that ‘no experience is required’. When consumers express interest they are told they need to pay some sort of fee or provide their personal details to be added to the payroll.

“While many people don’t respond to scams, unfortunately there are some who do, and we suspect that many others have also been stung by scams but have been reluctant to come forward,” Ms Gago said.

Scams and schemes topped the list of complaints to OCBA last financial year, and already this financial year OCBA has received 55 complaints relating to employment scams.

Ms Gago said job-seekers should carefully check job offers.

“Be particularly wary if you have to pay a fee to get further information or provide bank account details before you can begin work,” she said. “If the offer looks suspicious, report it to Consumer Affairs.”

To report a suspected scam contact OCBA on (08) 8204 9777 or 131 882 for regional callers, or visit [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au)