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SCAMMERS COAX CONSUMERS INTO KISSING THEIR MONEY GOODBYE

South Australians have been targeted by fraudsters trying to get money from them for supposed lotteries and pyramid investment schemes.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, is warning consumers about increasingly innovative techniques scammers use to lure unsuspecting victims into handing over their hard earned cash.

“This is the time to warn people to protect their money,” Minister Rankine said.

“Many South Australians lose thousands by sending money to claim winnings from overseas lotteries, or getting caught up in so called investment schemes.

“The only people making money out of these schemes are the fraudsters themselves.”

The Australasian Consumer Taskforce has built a four-week campaign with the overall theme '**SCAMS TARGET YOU - Protect Yourself**'.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) has received thousands of calls from consumers targeted by scams via their mailbox, telephone, email or website.

Types of scams include:

- Overseas lotteries where people have had to send money to receive their ‘alleged’ winnings
- Fraudsters contacting consumers by telephone and asking them to ‘confirm’ their security numbers on the backs of their credit cards
- Illegal investment schemes whereby consumers believe they will earn a substantial amount of money and are encouraged to sign up friends to boost their income.

Consumers are advised to:

1. **Never respond to an email asking for your PINs or passwords.**
2. **Never send money to someone you don’t know or trust.**
3. **Only invest with licensed financial services providers.**

“There are outrageous schemes that are too good to be true. This should ring alarm bells that these are scams. Do not give your money to fraudsters,” the Minister for Consumer Affairs said.

To report a suspected scam contact the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs on 8204 9777

A list of scams is available at www.ocba.sa.gov.au or www.scamwatch.gov.au