

# News Release

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Government  
of South Australia

**Hon Jennifer Rankine**

Minister for Consumer Affairs

**Hon Michael Wright**

Minister for Government Enterprises

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2007

## **OVERSEAS LOTTERY SCAMMERS TARGET SOUTH AUSTRALIANS**

People are being warned about the dangers of responding to bogus emails or letters from fraudsters purporting to be from South Australia's government-owned lottery operator.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, says "Many people believe they are legitimate winners and are disappointed when they realise they have been hoodwinked by false promises of a lottery win."

"Many are tricked into thinking that paying the requested fee will be worth it, given the exorbitant amount they think they've won."

"People worldwide are being targeted by scams like this. These scams are about tricking people into providing personal banking details or sending money to overseas addresses."

"The harsh reality is that people who send money to these lottery scammers will never see it again," Ms Rankine said.

SA Lotteries Chief Executive, June Roache, is also concerned that unsuspecting consumers are being led to believe that they have won a prize.

"SA Lotteries' winners can only be among those who have purchased entries in a legitimate draw," Ms Roache said.

"SA Lotteries does not notify winners via email."

"Only winners who have registered a Division One winning entry on their Easisplay Club membership card will be contacted with the good news – and this only comes in the form of a telephone call," Ms Roache added.

"People need to be vigilant and take steps to protect themselves from scams. The message is clear and simple, do not respond to overseas lotteries, scammers cannot succeed without people who respond", Ms Rankine said.

People unsure of whether or not a lottery is legitimate, are urged to visit the SA Lotteries' website at [www.salotteries.com.au](http://www.salotteries.com.au) or OCBA's website [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au) to view a listing of lottery scams.