

# Media Release



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## Dacey delivery - lottery scam warning

Unsuspecting consumers are the latest targets of bogus emails "notifying" them they have won a large lottery prize from SA Lottery. Not to be confused with this State's government-owned lotteries operator, SA Lotteries, SA Lottery is an overseas company that has been emailing random addresses promoting the scam. The email asks the recipient to send a range of personal details to enable collection of their "prize".

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) and SA Lotteries are warning consumers not to respond.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat said that his office receives many reports each year of lottery scams. Last financial year the Office received over 900 complaints about scams, an increase of 49%.

"Unfortunately, every year unsuspecting consumers are hoodwinked by false promises of lottery wins. Commonly, these are nothing but hooks designed to scam you out of your money."

"Last financial year scams were number 5 on our list of complaints. Consumers are more aware of scams now than they have ever been. They contact our office daily to report them."

According to June Roache, SA Lotteries Chief Executive, a number of queries have been received from consumers who have been targeted by this or similar e-mail lottery scams or a similar questionable incident.

"A number of people internationally have contacted us after receiving this or a similar e-mail notifying them of a large lottery win. Being aware of such scams, they have contacted us to verify the legitimacy of the communication," Ms Roache said.

"The issue of lottery scams and fraudulent websites is a major concern for the lotteries industry worldwide. With an estimated 2,000 lotteries websites in operation and only 200 legitimate lotteries jurisdictions, this is obviously a significant issue."

"We would like to reassure our players that SA Lotteries does not operate an Internet selling site and we do not contact our major winners by email or in person. SA Lotteries contacts winners only when they have registered a Division One winning entry on an Easiplay Club membership card or where they are drawn as a winner of a specific promotion, and this contact is made by telephone only, in accordance with strict protocol," Ms Roache added.

Recipients of this particular email were led to believe that the communication was endorsed by SA Lotteries, directing people to a website that had many graphics and features similar to SA Lotteries' official website. The website in question has since been deactivated following contact made by SA Lotteries with the site host.



Government  
of South Australia

Mr Bodycoat advises that consumers should be vigilant, and protect themselves and others from scams.

"If you're not sure if something is legitimate, please ring our office for advice. The Consumer Affairs website, at [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au) also lists hundreds of scams that have come to our attention and people should check this regularly."

"Remember, if it sounds too good to be true it probably is, particularly where you receive the advice electronically."

For further information about such scams, contact the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs on 08 8204 9777 or SA Lotteries' Customer Relations Officer on 08 8205 5558.