

# Media Release



**Government of South Australia**

Office of Consumer and  
Business Affairs

Contact: **Carolyn Warman**  
Phone: (08) 8207 1891

**Education and  
Information Services**

Ground Floor  
Chesser House  
91-97 Grenfell Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1719  
Adelaide SA 5001  
DX 225

Tel 08 8204 9516  
Fax 08 8204 9509

[www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au)

1 March 2010

## **Fraud taskforce out to get online scammers**

Online scammers are the focus of this year's fraud awareness campaign run by the Australasian Consumer Fraud Taskforce from 1 to 7 March. The campaign, 'Online Offensive - Fighting Online Fraud', is warning consumers about the dangers of online scams and offering tips on how consumers can protect themselves.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, David Green said, "With so many people using the internet and social networking sites, scammers are targeting unsuspecting victims online."

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) is a member of the Australasian Consumer Fraud Taskforce - along with other consumer protection agencies from Australia and New Zealand - and is pleased to be participating in this national fraud awareness campaign.

More than 1,000 complaints about scams were reported to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) in 2009. Many of the scams reported involve technology such as email, the Internet or text messages.

"Scammers are not just after your money. Scams can also be designed to steal your personal details such as credit card and bank account details, passport details and date of birth."

"Be careful what personal information you put on the internet because scammers can use these details to commit fraud. "

Identity fraud generally refers to the use of a stolen or assumed identity to gain goods, services, money and other benefits. By using a consumer's personal details, scammers can sometimes take out loans, claim welfare benefits or run up debts in the consumer's name.

"Scammers will target anyone regardless of age or background. No one group of people is more likely to become a victim of a scam."

"Most people think they can spot a scam a mile away, but unfortunately scammers are very good at what they do and they rely on consumers letting their guard down."

To report a suspected scam contact OCBA on 8204 9777, or 131 882 for country callers. More information on scams is available at [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au) or [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)