

Thursday, 4th June 2009

SCAM TRIES TO CASH IN USING REVENUE SA NAME

South Australians are again warned not to fall victim to a deceptive scam claiming to offer a tax refund from Revenue SA in return for your personal details.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago says it's the second time since March that individuals have reported the suspicious email to Revenue SA. This time it comes without fraudulent misrepresentations of the 'Revenue SA' and 'Government of South Australia' logos.

"As I've said before - there is no magical pot of money at the end of this fictitious Revenue SA rainbow. As with all deceptive scams, if something sounds too good to be true then it is too good to be true," says Minister Gago.

"South Australians should be aware that Revenue SA never emails people to ask for their personal details and I strongly advise people not to answer unsolicited requests by providing their details."

The email being circulated to '*Dear Applicant*' states that '*After the last annual calculation of your fiscal activity we have determined that you are eligible to receive a tax refund of \$184.23*'

It also asks you to electronically submit a range of personal details within a linked '*Tax Refund Application Form*' to get your personal refund information.

The Commissioner of State Taxation has referred the matter to SA Police who are taking action to see whether the source of the email can be traced.

"It's timely to warn people against these types of deceptive scams for which criminals pretend to be from legitimate companies and request information that allow them to profit from their fraud.

"Often scammers claim to be associated with a charity, bank or government agency, but you should never offer your personal financial details in response to unsolicited contacts."

Tell-tale signs of these type of scams often include:

- unexpected contact out of nowhere;
- sounds like an easy way to make a large amount of money;
- it's suggested there's no risk;
- personal details are requested up front;
- sounds too good to be true.