

Tuesday 14th November 2006

JOBS SEEKERS BEWARE

Don't get fooled by scams masquerading as employment opportunities!

That's the strong message from Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, as she launches a campaign to alert people to the dangers of replying to dubious employment opportunities.

"With many year 12 students about to move into the workforce, this is a timely warning not to be sucked in by false claims from supposed employers," the Minister said.

"Most young people have limited experience in applying for jobs and are keen to get employment.

"They should be very wary of advertisements that offer *work from home opportunities* or a *large income with little effort* and *no experience required*. These are often telltale signs of a scam.

The warning follows a number of employment scams reported to Consumer Affairs.

Examples of employment scams reported to OCBA include:

- Sending money to get a kit, often containing nothing more than instructions on how to photocopy and market identical kits to other people
- Making gift items from home and selling to anyone who will buy them
- Envelope stuffing scams that are advertised as real jobs.
- Being "selected" by an overseas company to assist with their operations in Australia, and being asked upfront to provide bank account details to be added to the payroll
- Pyramid schemes

Scammers also target other vulnerable groups, including people who have been out of the workforce for some time, migrants new to South Australia's job market, and people looking for extra work to make ends meet.

"The message to job seekers is beware of 'jobs' that aren't really jobs at all. Alarm bells should start to ring if you have to pay a fee to get more information or provide bank account details to overseas companies before you can start work," Ms Rankine said.

Consumers are also encouraged to do their own research about short courses that claim to offer guaranteed employment on completion. The qualifications may not be valid or even valued by prospective employers.

For more information about employment scams contact OCBA on (08) 8204 9777 or 131 882 for regional callers, or visit www.ocba.sa.gov.au