

News Release

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Hon Gail Gago

Minister for State/Local Government

Relations

Minister for the Status of Women

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister for Government Enterprises

Minister for the City of Adelaide

Tuesday, 22 June 2010

YELLOW PAGES FAX NOT BY THE BOOK

Businesses are being warned about a dodgy fax doing the rounds from an international company that's purporting to be the Yellow Pages[®], and requesting money for 'free submission to google.com.au'.

Consumer Affairs Minister, Gail Gago, said Sensis has received reports from Yellow Pages[®] customers in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, who have received a fax from a company posing as Yellow Pages Australia and requesting payment.

"The scam involves a number of websites masquerading as Yellow Pages[®], including, yellowpage-sydney.com; yellowpage-queensland.com; yellowpage-tasmania.com; yellowpage-perth.com; yellowpage-melbourne.com; yellowpage-westernaustralia.com yellowpage-victoria.com; yellowpage-southaustralia.com; yellowpage-nsw.com. Once again the websites have been developed to look like Yellow Pages, which is part of the scam."

"Sensis is taking steps to put an end to this scam as soon as possible so that customers do not mistakenly make payments to this company. Sensis is also taking steps to retrieve the domain names involved in the scam," Minister Gago said.

Yellow Pages[®] spokesperson Stephen Ronchi said "If you receive a fax from a company which claims to represent Yellow Pages, and you are unsure if the fax is legitimate you should contact us on 13 23 78. This is not the first report of rogue overseas businesses conducting scams that falsely claim to be, or have some association with Yellow Pages[®].

Other scams include overseas businesses posing as Yellow Pages[®] sales consultants. As part of these sales scams, businesses are often asked to confirm their business details such as their ABN, the name of the business' owner and directors and in some instances, to renew their existing advertisements. The purpose of such sales scams appears to be to obtain sensitive business information and possibly to generate and accept payment for false bills for advertising space in non-existent directory products.

Yellow Pages[®] will be reporting this incident to the relevant authorities. Additional general advice on scams and how to deal with them is available at the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) scam watch site at

<http://www.scamwatch.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/693900>