

## **News Bulletin**

### **SCAMS TARGETING STUDENTS**

Wollongong Police are warning students of a number of current SCAMS that often target students. These scams are targeting persons from all backgrounds with the most common being phone scams, lotteries and rental properties.

One of the popular scams involves the victim being contacted by phone or on the internet advising they have won a lottery or been selected at random to win a grand prize or large sum of money. There are costs involved with claiming the prize, or they will advise you that tax is required to be paid before the money can be released to you. Instead of receiving the money you will lose every cent that you send to the scammer, as you have limited details or details that are incorrect of the other party police are unable to assist you in the recovery of money sent to these scammers.

Remember legitimate lotteries do not require you to pay money to collect a prize.

If you have not bought a ticket then you can not win anything.

Never send money to anyone you don't know and trust.

Never provide your personal details to anyone over the phone or internet including your date of birth, pin numbers and account details.

### **RENTAL SCAMS**

Students need to be careful when responding to rental properties advertised on the internet. Cases have been reported over the last few years where the owner makes various excuses why a property can not be inspected including being overseas on holiday. The ads appear genuine as photos and a real address is supplied to the prospective tenant.

Once the scammer has the person's interest they then require you to forward an upfront payment for rent prior to the keys being forwarded to the new tenant. The keys are not forwarded and the scammer is unable to be located.

If an offer sounds really good make further enquiries. Department of Fair Trading can offer assistance by providing a list of SCAMS and how to protect yourself. If you do become a victim you need to report the matter to your local Police station.

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