



# Protect yourself against scammers

With the advances in electronic communication, criminals don't necessarily need to be face to face to steal from you. Scams are constantly evolving and scammers can go to great lengths to cause people to part with money or information.

Scammers may pretend to be from your bank or a service provider, offer sports betting or short term investment opportunities. They can claim the ability to return owed monies from overseas, often romance and dating opportunities plus numerous other approaches. On the surface these **may** appear to be genuine.

Here are some simple steps to help protect yourself against scammers.

## If it sounds too good to be true . . .

- **NEVER** send money or give credit card or online account details to anyone you don't know and trust.
- **ALWAYS** seek independent financial and/or legal advice before making any investment or purchasing decisions.
- **NEVER** rely solely on advice from the person trying to sell you the service or investment.

## Door to door sales or 'Tradie scams'

- **DON'T** be pressured into signing or paying up front.
- **ALWAYS** research a company or service provider prior to paying or agreeing to a contract.
- **ALWAYS** read any contract or service paperwork carefully prior to paying for any work.

## Protect your personal information

- **NEVER** give your personal or bank account details to people you don't know and trust.
- **ALWAYS** contact your bank, financial institution or service provider if you have been contacted by a scammer.
- **DON'T** use the numbers provided on the email to confirm an email's legitimacy before replying.

## Don't take things on face value

- **DON'T** be fooled by an email that looks legitimate or appears to link to a genuine website.
- **DON'T** open suspicious or unsolicited emails (spam) - ignore them.
- **ALWAYS** beware of 'Cold Calling' and confirm who you are actually talking to.

If you believe you have been a victim to a cyber related offence - report it immediately on [www.acorn.gov.au](http://www.acorn.gov.au)

For more crime prevention information visit us on [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au)

Protect yourself from fraud



Justice



**Triple Zero (000)**  
For emergencies or life threatening situations.



**Police Assistance Line (131 444)**  
For non emergencies.



**Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000)**  
To provide crime information. It can be anonymous.