



March 2 – 8 is National Consumer Fraud Week

One in 20 Australians falls victim to a scam each year.

During National Consumer Fraud Week the Australasian Consumer Fraud Taskforce is raising awareness of fraud in the community. The Consumer Action Law Centre is a partner organisation assisting the Taskforce.

Taskforce Chair and Australian Competition and Consumer Competition Deputy Chair Peter Kell, says while people are generally aware that scams occur, few think *they* will be the target.

"Most people know someone who has been scammed or lost money to fraud, but most people still don't think it will happen to them, but anyone can be the target of a scam," said Mr Kell.

Everyone needs to be aware that scams come in many forms — door-to-door, by post, email, telephone and text messages, and over the Internet.

Scams are designed to trick you into giving away your money or your personal details. Scammers are manipulative. They know how to push your buttons to produce the response they want.

National Consumer Fraud week aims to educate consumers about how to recognise and avoid scams.

"One of the best ways to combat this kind of fraud is to help consumers and businesses to increase their awareness of scams and to learn how they can protect themselves," Mr Kell said.

Online Survey

The Taskforce would like to know about any scams that members of the public have received and how they responded to them. Gathering information through a short online public survey will help to improve the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of scam offenders

All responses to the online survey will remain anonymous. Individual responses will not be disclosed to any third parties and will only be used for statistical analysis. To complete the survey, or report a scam, follow the links from the website www.scamwatch.gov.au.

Anyone can be the target of a scam. Remember, scams target you, protect yourself.

To find out more about the scams, or to report a scam, visit **www.scamwatch.gov.au** or call **1300 795 995**.

All these people lost money to scammers

Report scams to SCAMwatch

Call 1300 795 995 www.scamwatch.gov.au

