

media statement



22 February 2012

Fake fair trading officer scamming Queenslanders

The Office of Fair Trading is warning Queenslanders to hang up on phone based scammers following reports of a fake fair trading officer cold calling people and asking them to transfer money via Western Union.

Fair Trading Executive Director, Brian Bauer, said no government agency would ever contact consumers to ask for money in exchange for help, and people should simply hang up on these types of calls.

“The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) today received a report about a phone based scammer claiming to be from the Queensland Office of Fair Trading,” Mr Bauer said.

“The caller tells consumers they have obtained funds owing to them from a bank account and that in order to receive the money, they need to pay an administration fee via Western Union.

“One consumer who was contacted was told he had money owing to him from a Westpac account.

“The consumer was given a case reference number of 102259 and a phone number of (07) 3102 4575.

“A couple of days later, the consumer was contacted again and told he would need to deposit \$179 to the OFT.

“Fortunately the consumer smelled a rat and ended the conversation.”

For the latest scam information visit www.scamwatch.gov.au or call 1300 795 995.

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