



How do I find out more?

To find out more, contact the ACCC infocentre by:

Phone: 1300 302 502

Email: infocentre@acc.gov.au
or visit the ACCC website at www.accc.gov.au.

The ACCC launched its new look SCAMwatch website on 31 October 2006. The new website is available at www.scamwatch.gov.au.

SCAMwatch seeks to inform consumers and small business about how to recognise, avoid and report scams. The new SCAMwatch website lists 39 different types of scams, ranging from pyramid schemes to online auction scams, along with the warning signs to look out for.

The SCAMwatch website is easy to navigate and structures information in a very accessible form. It explains how scams operate and offers guidance to consumers and small business operators about what to look out for, and how to minimise their chances of being scammed.

SCAMwatch also identifies and discusses a variety of common scams currently targeting consumers and small business in areas such as internet shopping, mobile

phones, fake lotteries, online banking, investment opportunities, health and medical remedies.

In particular, SCAMwatch contains information and advice on scams that commonly target small business - fax back scams, office supply scams and false billing associated with directories or advertising.

The inclusion of new interactive initiatives will not only enhance the website's appeal to users, but also enable the ACCC to be more responsive to community concerns about existing and emergent scams.

SCAMwatch will regularly publish the experiences of real victims who have been the target of a scam and are willing to share their story.

There is also the opportunity to subscribe to receive free email alerts from the ACCC about widespread or novel scams that have been reported to it (to be featured on the 'SCAMwatch radar').

Combating scams and promoting awareness in the community about

scams is a responsibility that the ACCC shares with various other Commonwealth, state and territory fair trading agencies and law enforcement bodies.

SCAMwatch outlines the roles and responsibilities of these organisations in respect of scam prevention and policing, and contains direct links via the 'report a scam' page. SCAMwatch features an online form which small businesses and consumers can use to report scams directly to the ACCC.

SCAMwatch also provides a comprehensive list of other websites from Australia and overseas that have useful information about scams and how to avoid them.

SCAMwatch was originally developed as a joint initiative between the Treasury, the ACCC, the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) and state and territory fair trading agencies. The site was launched in October 2001 and was maintained by the Treasury until late 2005 when it was transferred to the ACCC.

SCAMwatch will continue to act as the website portal for the annual *Scams Awareness Month* campaign run by the Australasian Consumer Fraud Taskforce (ACFT).

Established in March 2005, the ACFT is composed of 18 government agencies and departments who have a remit for consumer protection in relation to frauds and scams.

Chaired by the Deputy Chair of the ACCC, the ACFT seeks to enhance the Australian and New Zealand Governments' enforcement activity against frauds and scams, to involve the private sector in the fight against frauds and scams, and to generate interest in research on consumer frauds and scams.

SCAMwatch will continue to evolve and grow in the future, and the ACCC looks forward to adding new initiatives in the coming months.

Did you know?

The SCAMwatch website is located at www.scamwatch.gov.au