

Media Release
Outsmart the Scammers!

During National Consumer Fraud Week (17-23 June), Peninsula Community Legal Centre is supporting the Australasian Consumer Fraud Taskforce in raising awareness about scams – and how to avoid them.

Peninsula Community Legal Centre has been providing free legal services for 35 years, and receives funding from Consumer Affairs Victoria to assist consumers with advice, dispute resolution, support and representation in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Acting Principal Lawyer, Brendan Stackpole, says:

“We hope that the Taskforce’s ‘Top 5 Tips’ will help community members avoid scams. But, if you think you might have been taken in by a scam, it is important to seek legal advice as soon as possible. Don’t let embarrassment stop you from pursuing your rights.”

For more information about free legal services, please call (03) 9783 3600 or visit www.pclc.org.au. To find out more about scams and how to protect yourself against them, visit www.scamwatch.gov.au.

[Please see attached message from the Australasian Consumer Fraud Taskforce with the Top 5 Tips to outsmart the scammers.]

END.

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- Victoria Legal Aid
- City of Casey
- City of Glen Eira
- City of Kingston
- Frankston City Council
- Mornington Peninsula Shire



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Outsmart the Scammers!

National Consumer Fraud Week 17 – 23 June 2013

An Australasian Consumer Fraud Taskforce initiative

Have you ever bought or sold something online, only to find that the person at the other end isn't the real deal?

National Consumer Fraud Week 2013 is all about outsmarting scammers online by learning how to buy and sell safely online without being duped.

Australians are increasingly going online to buy goods and services, taking advantage of the speed, convenience and greater choice that the internet can offer. Unfortunately scammers like shopping online for their victims too.

Stay one click ahead – follow the Top 5 tips to outsmart the scammers:

- 1. Think twice** – if a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.
- 2. Find out what other shoppers say** – make sure the person that you are dealing with, and their offer, is the real deal.
- 3. Protect your identity** – your personal details are private and invaluable; keep them that way and away from scammers.
- 4. Keep your computer secure** – Install software that protects your computer from viruses and unwanted programs and make sure it is kept up-to-date.
- 5. Only pay via secure payment methods** – look for a web address starting with 'https' and a closed padlock symbol. Never use a wire transfer service to send money to anyone you do not know and trust, and do not share your financial details with anyone.

Visit SCAMwatch to find out how scams work, how to protect yourself and what to do if you've been scammed:

www.scamwatch.gov.au

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