



Statement on scammers representing Deaf Australia

It has come to Deaf Australia's attention that there may be individuals involved in pretending to represent Deaf Australia when in contact with Deaf people.

Deaf Australia wants to make it very explicit that we do not engage or support activities involving door knocking/emails/text messages in the intention of asking for personal information and/or money. This is a form of scamming.

There are many types of scams and they included but are not limited to:

- Buying and selling where scammers pretend to be buying and/or selling products and services on behalf of a business, for example:



- Pretending to be from a genuine charity and ask for donations or contact you wanting to get money after natural disasters (i.e., floods, bushfires) or major events (i.e., war in Ukraine).
- Pretending to be an investor where someone tells you they have a way of making fast money and invite you to sign up and pay however much they ask for.
- Pretending to represent banks and/or credit unions asking you for your personal information and credit card details.
- Pretending to be from an employment agency and getting you to hand over your money or offer you a high pay, low effort job.

Both men and women are equally likely to be scammed. The most common way to scam you is through phone calls, text messages and emails. It is less common, yet it still happens, that scammers will come door knocking.

It can be difficult to tell when a scam happens, because they are exceptionally good at appearing genuine. There are some common signs, including:

- The email/text is unexpected
- They say it is urgent
- The written communication or any other written forms include typos i.e., misspelling of commonly used words or the grammar is not correct.
- There is a deadline you need to meet
- They ask for your personal details i.e., name, address, date of birth, bank details
- They offer you a loan without you asking
- There is a promise of financial benefits
- There can be a threat of fines, debts, or jail.

If you feel that someone has scammed you because of pretending to be acting on behalf of Deaf Australia, we encourage you to contact us immediately. The other option is to go to the website and report what has happened to you: <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/get-help/where-to-get-help>

References:

<https://moneysmart.gov.au/banking/banking-and-credit-scams>

<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/types-of-scams>

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/how-to-know-if-its-scam?context=60271>