



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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DR PETER TOYNE MLA Minister for Justice

Another Scam Fax hits the Territory

A scam from a UK based modelling agency has hit Territory facsimile machines.

The Office of Consumer Affairs has been alerted to the scam via numerous queries from Territory residents who received the facsimile this week.

Northern Territory Minister responsible for Consumer Affairs Dr Peter Toyne said the facsimile invites Territorians to provide the UK company with their personal details, in return for offers to take part in modelling and TV assignments.

The offer is directed to males and females, short, tall, young, old, fat or thin and lures recipients into believing that by returning the fax, they *may* become famous.

It is very enticing by offering high profile exposure into the world of modelling, and could tempt teenagers and younger Territorians who are more vulnerable to this type of advertising.

“However, the fax back costs at \$5.50 per minute, can take up to 20 minutes to process. The charge, which could be in excess of \$100, most of which would be credited to the agency’s bank accounts.

The scam operator would then receive the majority of this fee through their 1902 line.” Dr Toyne said.

Dr Toyne said “All Territorians should be suspicious of any offers that attract such a large cost to the consumer especially when there is no proof of legitimacy of the offer”.

Consumer Affairs Officers are working with other States and the ACCC to have the 1902 facsimile number closed down.

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