



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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DR PETER TOYNE MLA
Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

‘SARS’ FAX SCAM WARNING

Minister for Justice and Attorney General Dr Peter Toyne today issued an urgent public warning on a new fax poll about to hit Territory homes and businesses within the next few days.

Dr Toyne said other states have been inundated with complaints from irate consumers who have been conned by responding to a questionnaire about the SARS virus through a 1900 fax number,

“A new fax scam claiming to be SARS research questionnaire has hit consumers in other states and it is only a matter of days before the Territory is targeted by this fax scam.

“The fax scam posed as a questionnaire about the SARS virus and asks receivers to fax back the answers to a 1902 fax service, at a cost of \$4.95 per minute.

“I urge consumers to not respond as 1900 fax services are notoriously slow with many examples of consumers being ripped off to the tune of hundreds of dollars through these fax survey scams.

“Although the originator claims that the poll results will be analysed and distributed to various organisations, including universities and tourism agencies, consumers should be sceptical of these types of faxes,” Dr Toyne said.

The fax arrives with a large banner heading ‘Australia Needs Your Help’ SARS Research Questionnaire.

For advice on potential scams or to advise of received scams you can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs 7 days a week on 8999 1999.