



GARY CLEMENTS A/Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

LOTTERY SCAM HITS REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Remote communities are among the recipients of the El Gordo Lottery scam.

El Gordo Lotteries, which appears to originate in Spain, has for months been targeting Territorians through direct mail to advise they had "won" the major prize in their lottery draw.

A/Commissioner of Consumer Affairs Gary Clements warns Territorians that this is a blatant SCAM and urges residents to avoid responding to this correspondence.

He said "If a recipient replies via mail or telephone, El Gordo representatives claim a "release fee" that must be paid for the major prize funds to be deposited into the winner's account. The release fee is often around \$2500 AUD. Once a recipient deposits that amount in the El Gordo account, all contact with them is terminated".

"El Gordo representatives also ask to be provided with the recipient's bank account details. There is also the added risk of people having their bank account drained," he said.

Mr Clements said "Consumer Affairs have been inundated with calls from consumers who have received the El Gordo Lottery notification and urges all recipients to throw the propaganda in the bin".

How can you win a lottery, when you haven't bought a ticket.

He said "I have grave concerns that Territorians who are vulnerable either economically, socially or by having English as their 2nd or 3rd language, will fall victim to these unscrupulous scammers. There is a risk that some people, down on their luck, may see this notice as a lifeline, a last resort, and they need to be protected. "

The A/Commissioner urges community leaders throughout the Territory, especially those who represent Indigenous or ethnic Territorians to spread the word throughout their community to be wary of these SCAMS, don't send money overseas, and throw the propaganda in the bin.

For further information, contact Consumer Affairs on 8999 1999.

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