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**Gary Clements**  
Director of Consumer Affairs

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### **LOTTERY SCAMMERS TARGETING TERRITORIANS**

Northern Territory residents are urged to avoid responding to a lottery scam currently circulating across the NT.

Territorians are being targeted through direct mail by companies located in Kansas City, USA (going by the names of National Awards Commission, Opportunities Unlimited Publications Inc and Contest America Publishers Inc) to advise they had "won" the major prize in their lottery draw.

To claim the prize, recipients are advised that they must submit a 'one-time registration fee' within 5 days to claim the prize, and are provided with a cash payment form that requires credit card details. By providing credit card details, recipients are at risk of being defrauded of large sums of money.

Going by experience with similar lottery scams, once a recipient provides the registration fee, all contact with them is terminated, or attempts are made to extract further payments before the 'prize' is released.

The Director of Consumer Affairs Mr Gary Clements said "This is a blatant scam.

My office is working with interstate and overseas counterparts in an attempt to close down the proponents of this sort of consumer fraud and stop this bulk mail coming into the NT. In the meantime, I urge all recipients to dispose of any mail from any lottery-type mail-out."

Mr Clements said it was impossible to win a lottery without even entering.

"The truth is, the lottery does not even exist," he said.

"Our advice to businesses and individuals is to remain vigilant and to never provide credit or personal details unless you are 100 per cent sure of who you are in contact with."

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