

MEDIA RELEASE

Acting Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

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Chance to win a free holiday in the Bahamas costs Territorians hundreds of dollars

Territorians are being targeted in a holiday telemarketing scam, Acting Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, Gary Clements, has warned.

A number of people have contacted Consumer Affairs saying they have received telephone calls about the holiday and some have lost amounts as much as \$700 to the scammers.

The callers are very convincing and persistent. Money has been debited to credit cards despite the person asking the caller not to do so.

Consumers receive a phone call claiming they have won a free holiday to a resort at Orlando, Daytona Beach in the USA and a 3-day cruise to the Bahamas. A pre-recorded voice message asks them to dial 9. People are then connected to a 'travel consultant'

The caller has the first and last numbers of the person's credit card and asks for the remaining numbers and 3-digit security code on the back of the card. The 'consultant' promises to send a package with more information on the "prize".

Mr Clements said "The sales staff use high pressure tactics claiming this is only being promoted by word of mouth and won't be advertised any where else."

"We urge people not to provide credit card details to callers they don't know and trust. Anyone who has done so should contact their credit card provider to block any payment. Consumers should be very wary of callers and hang up immediately." Mr Clements said.

Anyone who has concerns about the holiday scam should contact Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319. Further information on scams is available at www.consumeraffairs.nt.gov.au

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