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Jobs and employment scams

The National Anti-Scam Centre is warning Australian job seekers to be on the lookout for employment-related scams.

So far this year, scammers have stolen \$19.6 million from people looking for work, an increase of over 740%. Victims have suffered a median loss of \$6,000.

Scamwatch reports show these scams are impacting students looking for part-time work, culturally and linguistically diverse groups, and people looking to earn more money to help manage increased costs of living.

How to spot the scam

- Remember job offers on encrypted message services like Whatsapp or job ads on social media sites may be fake.
- Don't respond to unexpected 'work from home' opportunities or job offers, particularly those that offer a 'guaranteed income' for little effort or require you to pay money upfront to complete tasks.
- Always check if the recruitment agency is real. Go to the legitimate website or app via an independent search (never via links in messages) to confirm the job is real.
- If the job is for a well-known brand, such as Kogan, Kmart, Myer, etc. contact the organisation directly on a phone number or email you found yourself on their website to check if the job is real.
- Scammers will often use similar but slightly different websites to the known brand. Look for subtle differences in the website address.
- Find out more about warning signs of job and employment scams by visiting the Scamwatch website.

Where to report the scam

- Report the scam to the platform (e.g., Facebook or WhatsApp etc.) and to the National Anti-Scam Centre via **Scamwatch.gov.au**.
- If you have lost money, contact your bank immediately.
- Contact IDCARE on 1800 595 160 if you have provided scammers with personal identifying information such as drivers licence or passport.

Protect yourself

Never send money, you won't get it back.

Stop – take your time before giving money or personal information.

Think – ask yourself if the message or call could be a scam?

Protect – act quickly if something feels wrong. Contact your bank and report scams to [Scamwatch.gov.au](https://www.scamwatch.gov.au) .

The scam in action

- Scammers spend hours showing you how to set up accounts with both the scam company and a cryptocurrency exchange. They explain how to create a cryptocurrency wallet and how to purchase USDT (digital currency) and transfer it to their account with the scam company. You may be asked to complete 'tasks' after some training.
- These tasks include buying products to boost sales/ratings, advertising brands, or providing 5-star reviews for tours or hotels for making bookings.
- The scammer will ask you to 'recharge', 'purchase' or 'top-up' your account to complete your job, get a higher commission or be promoted to a higher level of membership.
- You may also be encouraged to recruit new people to earn extra commissions or bonuses, or in some cases as leverage to receive your money back.
- Ultimately the scammer keeps the money.