



About Scamwatch

The aim of Scamwatch

The aim of Scamwatch is to provide you with information you need to protect yourself from scams, so you can recognise a set-up and avoid the hook and the inevitable sting of a scam.

Almost everyone has been the target of a scam at some stage in their lives, and many people have repeated, ongoing exposure to scam attempts.

What the research says

Ministry of Consumer Affairs research carried out in 2009 found that

- 15% of New Zealand adults have been scammed or tricked out of money
- The likelihood of being scammed or tricked out of money does not differ substantially by education, income or age.
- Most scams (60%) involved sums less than \$1000, and 79% involved a sum less than \$5000

[Read the full report here \[PDF\]](#). Scam research is on page 53-54.

Additionally, based on overseas research conducted in the UK and Australia, we would estimate that the average loss to a scam is around \$2,300.

Protect yourself

Scammers create great set-ups, with bait designed to hook you. If you take the hook, they will sting you!

[Find out how to protect yourself.](#)

[Find out about types of scams and how they work.](#)

The Alert section keeps you informed of scams that are out there circulating in the New Zealand community, so you can be aware and prepared for them.

[See our latest scam alerts.](#)

This section provides alerts based on information reported to Scamwatch by those who have been confronted with scams - and who want to help protect others. It also contains information about scams from the media.

Report a scam

If you want to protect others by reporting a scam attempt that is not already on our Alert section, your report will automatically be sent to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

The Ministry may use your information, taking out any personal identity details, to create an alert on Scamwatch to keep others aware and prepared.

[Report a scam to Scamwatch.](#)

Scamwatch also provides advice for those who have fallen for the bait and been hooked.

[Find out what to do if you've been scammed.](#)