

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Lauga warns against vax scammers

Scammers are playing on people's Covid19 and vaccination fears, stealing nearly \$10 million in recent months.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said the ACCC's Scamwatch site has received over 6415 scam reports mentioning the coronavirus with more than \$9,800,000 in reported losses since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Scams relating to COVID-19 include:

- requesting payment for vaccines or for early access to vaccines
- offers to mail vaccines
- offers to pay money as an investment opportunity in the Pfizer vaccine
- fake surveys related to vaccines that offer prizes or early access.

"This is disgusting that scammers and fraudsters would prey on people's vulnerability during this worrying pandemic.

"It reinforces that everyone needs to be cautious and remain alert to coronavirus-related scams.

"Scammers are hoping that you have let your guard down.

"Do not provide your personal, banking or superannuation details to strangers who have approached you, and trust only companies, people and government bodies you know."

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Ms Lauga said scammers may pretend to have a connection with you “so it’s important to stop and check, even when you are approached by what you think is a trusted organisation”.

“The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has recorded an 89 per cent increase in the public reporting scams compared with the same period last year.

“One to watch is the set up a fake or ‘phishing’ website that is designed to lure buyers into believing they’re purchasing goods online from legitimate businesses,” she said.

She said common scams include phishing for personal information, online shopping, and superannuation scams.

See the [COVID-19 vaccination scams](#) page to find out how to avoid and protect yourself from these and other potential scams relating to COVID-19 vaccines.

Ms Lauga said the upcoming Scams Awareness Week (November 8-12, 2021) will carry the theme is “Let’s talk scams”.

Scams Awareness Week and the work of the [Scams Awareness Network](#) is possible thanks to our government, business and community

ENDS...Contact John 0400787037