Australian Government

National Anti-Scam Centre

Key statistics

Please note: Data in this brief has been updated from the previously reported $139 million to $134 million. Changes to Scamwatch data can occur due to cleaning processes to remove losses that are not valid or not due to scams. Data may also change because of individuals withdrawing scam reports.

This Scams Awareness Week we're encouraging Australians to speak up, share and report scams. Around **30% of people do not report the most serious scams**.[1] By talking to each other, we can make sure no one is alone in the fight against scams.

From 1 January to 30 June 2024, Scamwatch received a total of **143,106 reports**. Of these total reports, **92.9% of people who reported to Scamwatch didn't suffer a financial loss at all** and still provided vital information to support for scam disruption activities and scam warnings.

Scamwatch data from 1 January - 30 June 2024 show **losses of over $134 million** (a 52.8% decrease from the first 6 months of 2023). Many people are getting better at identifying scams, but many people in our community are being impacted disproportionately:

- People aged 24 and under reported 3,653 scam reports and accounted for 2.3% of losses.
- People aged 55 and over reported 52,797 scam reports and accounted for 47.6% of losses.
- Small businesses (0-19 employees) reported 967 scam reports and accounted for 2.9% of losses.
- Reporters with English as a second language reported 6,586 scam reports and accounted for 14.8% of losses.
- Indigenous Australians reported 2,318 scam reports and accounted for 1.7% of losses.
- People with disability reported 11,365 scam reports and accounted for 6.0% of losses.

[1] 69.4% of people who experienced a scam notified (or were notified by) an authority about the most serious scam (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Personal Fraud Survey, March 2024).

Approximately **2.5% of Australians have experienced a scam**,[2] while approximately **65% of Australians have been exposed to a scam**.[3]

Reporting is crucial to support and disruption efforts. For example:

- Between 1 January 2024 – 30 June 2024, 3,526 Scamwatch reports were automatically referred to IDCARE[4] for online identity or related cyber security support. Automatic referrals mean IDCARE Case Managers can work with victims to limit any damage from identity theft.
- In 2023, Scamwatch received **over 8,000 reports of investment scams** with **total reported losses of $292 million**, accounting for **over 60% of total financial losses** reported to Scamwatch. In response, organisations across government and industry formed a Fusion Cell to work together on strategies to minimise the harm caused by this type of scam among the community. The Fusion Cell:
  - Created a direct referral process, resulting in digital platforms **removing more than 1,000 instances of scam advertisements, advertorials, and videos**.
  - **Diverted 113 attempted calls** to confirmed scam numbers to a recorded warning message.
  - **Removed 220 investment scam websites**.

2 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Personal Fraud Survey, March 2024.

3 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Personal Fraud Survey, February 2023.

4 IDCARE is Australia and New Zealand's national identity and cyber support service. IDCARE supports individuals confronting identity theft and cyber security concerns.