

MEDIA RELEASE

Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

20 February 2012

Holiday Scratchie Ticket Scam is No Winner

Consumers across the NT are again the target of scammers. Consumer Affairs Commissioner Gary Clements is warning Territorians to beware of Pavilion Holiday brochures with scam scratchie tickets arriving through the mail.

This is another example of an upfront payment scam. Typically everyone will receive two scratchies with one being a 'winning' ticket offering a prize of \$160,000 USD. To collect the prize you must call an overseas number where the scammers ask for personal details, copies or original photo identification and money upfront for 'taxes and other mandatory charges'.

Don't be fooled by the colourful brochure from this bogus travel company claiming to be celebrating its 9th anniversary. The tickets come with instructions to call a number in Malaysia and also provide a web address with a professional looking travel website, but it's a sham. "One Territorian was asked to send \$3600 but thankfully thought to ring Consumer Affairs before doing so", Mr Clements said.

Guard against scams:

- Be wary of unsolicited letters, emails, SMS or phone calls with offers of prizes.
- Never give your personal, bank or credit card details to people you don't know or trust and who contact you uninvited.
- Question why you have to transfer money upfront to claim a prize or offer.
- Responding to scams may lead to you receiving more fake offers in the future.

For more information about this scam contact Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319 or email consumer@nt.gov.au.