




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Scams Awareness Week

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.09 am): Queenslanders are losing money to scammers at an alarming rate. We know that scammers are becoming more sophisticated and more people are falling victim to them. This week is Scams Awareness Week and this year's theme is 'How to spot a scam'. This is a very good reminder to Queenslanders to be extra vigilant and to know what to do if they think they have been scammed. Alarming, Queenslanders reported more than \$58 million in losses to scammers last year, which is almost double the reported loss of the previous year. This year is even higher, with Queenslanders already reporting losses of more than \$68 million.

When a Queenslanders is in need we know that Queenslanders dig deep, but alarmingly scammers are being increasingly opportunistic following natural disasters, especially when it comes to fake charities. With the severe weather events at the start of this year which saw parts of our state experience devastating flooding, Queensland has seen a huge increase in losses to fake charity scams. This year alone Queenslanders have reported higher losses to fake charities than any other state or territory—in fact, five times reported losses in New South Wales. That is why my message to anyone looking to donate to a charity is to make sure they are a genuine charity. You can check an organisation's credentials at the Queensland government's website check a charity to make sure your money is going to the right place to help those in need. If you are thinking about starting up a charity, make sure you register properly and have the right authorisation to collect donations.

With the rising cost of living it has never been more important for Queenslanders to know where their money is going and prevent further losses to scammers, so we need people talking, sharing their stories and raising awareness about scams. A simple conversation could stop a friend, family member, neighbour or even yourself from falling victim to a scam. Talking about it not only helps reduce stigma around being scammed but importantly it can prevent scams from happening in the first place because if Queenslanders know how to spot a scam, they can stop a scam.