

Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business

1st Floor Public Buildings Franklin Square HOBART TAS 7000 Australia

Public Buildings, 53 St John Street LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Ph: +61 3 6165 7751

Email: guy.barnett@dpac.tas.gov.au Web: www.guybarnett.com.au



National Consumer Fraud Week and Small Business Scammers Notice of Motion – Parliament of Tasmania 24 May 2016

Mr Guy Barnett MP [*Member for Lyons*] to move—That the House:—

- (1) Notes that 16 to 22 May was National Consumer Fraud Week, raising the awareness of the types of scams targeting older Australians, educating older Australians on how to identify and avoid scams and providing them with information on what to do if they've been scammed;
- (2) Notes that in 2015, 40% of reports made to ScamWatch, run by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, were from older Australians over 55 years, amounting to \$21.2 million lost, with many being targeted by false investment schemes or dating and romance scams;
- (3) Notes that according to ScamWatch, there was a 15% rise in the overall number of scams reported in 2015, reaching 105,201 reports, 9.8% of those were related to losing money;
- (4) Notes that there were 2,678 scams reported by Tasmanian's in 2015, totalling \$1.3 million lost;
- (5) Further notes a recent report from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission indicating that small businesses are continuing to fall victim to scammers;
- (6) Notes that some 3,585 small business operators across Australia reported losses of more than \$2.8 million in 2015 with the common types of scams related to investment schemes, buying and selling scams and false billing;
- (7) Recognises the continued work by both the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and Tasmanian Police warning Tasmanian's about scammers, more recently noting scammers persistently calling members of our community, claiming to be from the Tasmanian Police seeking donations to fund an education program about the drug ICE or claiming to be from the Australian Tax Office demanding payments of outstanding debt.