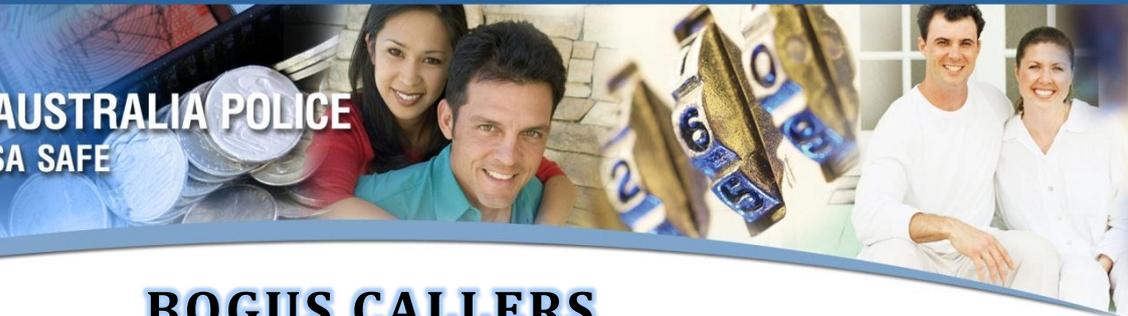


CRIME PREVENTION



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
KEEPING SA SAFE



BOGUS CALLERS

The South Australia Police State Crime Prevention Branch develops strategies to prevent crime and the fear of crime within the community. We work in partnership with the community to ensure that South Australia is a safe place to live, visit and conduct business.

Most people who call at your home will be genuine, but sometimes someone may turn up unannounced, with the intention of getting into your home or deceiving you into giving them money, these people are known as '**bogus callers**'.

What to look for:

- 'Bogus callers' may be smartly dressed.
- They often claim to be from the council, the police or a utility company.
- They may just ask for a drink of water, to wash their hands or use your telephone in an emergency.
- They may claim to have lost a pet, or a ball in your back garden.
- They may be men, women or even children, but all have one thing in common, they are very convincing and persuasive.
- Sometimes they work in pairs and whilst you are talking to one at the front door, an accomplice may be trying to enter through an open window or unlocked back door.
- 'Bogus callers' may claim to be builders or gardeners who will try and trick you into paying for unnecessary work. You should never agree to have work done by someone who is just passing by as the work will probably not need to be done at all.

Simple strategies you can implement.

Lock, stop, chain/check, refuse

Lock Keep your doors locked.

Stop Before you answer, stop and think if you are expecting anyone then look through a spyhole, window or screen door to see who it is.

Chain Keep a bar or chain on the door while you are talking to the person on the doorstep.

Check Even if the caller has a prearranged appointment, check their identity card carefully - if you doubt their identity look up a phone number in the phone book and ring to verify the caller's identity. Do **not** use a phone number on the identity card, as this may be fake.

Refuse Entry to unexpected callers.

If you have any questions concerning this fact sheet, please contact the Police Crime Prevention Section at your nearest police station or visit

www.police.sa.gov.au

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Always get quotes for repairs

- Use recommended trades people.
- Do not be pressured into paying someone before work has been done – and never accept any offers to drive you to the bank to withdraw money – if possible PAY BY CHEQUE NOT CASH.
 - if you think work needs to be done, obtain and compare quotes from two or three companies
 - ask a friend or relative, or your local Council Home Assist Office for the names of reputable tradespeople or companies

3. Keep cash out of sight

- Avoid keeping large sums of cash at home and always keep valuables and cash out of sight.

4. If they're genuine they will wait

- Only let the person into your home if you are absolutely sure of their identity.
- Genuine callers will always be happy to make an appointment and they won't mind waiting while you check their identity.
- Consider having someone else present during appointments.

5. Your vigilance can help others

- If you think someone is a bogus caller report it to the police immediately.
- Try to get a description, registration number of their car and the direction they left in.

The earlier the police know that bogus callers are working in an area, the quicker they can investigate and prevent others becoming victims.

Please don't be too concerned nearly all callers to your home are genuine.

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