

It's not just a problem in Western Australia though. **We know that in Victoria, for example, there were almost 300 reports of this kind of scam in 2010-11. It led to Consumer Affairs Victoria producing a six-part series of one minute YouTube videos called 'Stevie's Scam School' to benefit businesses across Australia.**

You can view these videos and also find a number of other new online tools to help businesses protect themselves from false billing and unauthorised advertising scams on our [Tools for small businesses page](#).

You should also follow these tips to avoid business scams:

- Make sure staff who pay invoices or answer phones are aware of these scams
- Never pay anything that has not been authorised or fully understood.
- In the case of a magazine or newsletter subscription or advertisement, require evidence of distribution before payment of the account
- Don't take verbal assurances on their face value, always check
- Request a copy of the signed authority upon which the order was placed

Submitted by Ruth Edge – Cardinia Shire Council