

Identity Theft –Scammed of house and home

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Scammed ... Roger Mildenhall. Photo: ABC

A man whose Karrinyup home was sold without his knowledge or consent will be able to get full compensation for his losses, according to Registrar of Titles at Landgate, Bruce Roberts. The information comes as it was revealed another fraudulent real estate transaction has been attempted in Perth since Roger Mildenhall lost his home earlier this month.

Mr Roberts said if Mr Mildenhall, whose property was sold by "extremely sophisticated" scammers in Nigeria, exhausts all appropriate options, he would be fully compensated for the loss of his \$485,000 investment property.

Mr Roberts said Mr Mildenhall can "apply to Landgate for a claim of the value of the property and the costs incurred in making that claim, or begin lengthy legal proceedings" for compensation. "If he makes an appropriate claim, yes he will be compensated, and if he establishes a fraud, which there appears to have been and establishes this to the Commissioner of Titles when he goes to Landgate, then yes he will be compensated," he said.

Mr Mildenhall said he was not able to respond to comments made about his compensation, but said his lawyer is currently investigating the avenues available to him.

Senior Sergeant Don Heise from major fraud squad said the money paid to the fraudulent owner was tracked to China, and they are working with various agencies to trace the payment.

Real Estate and Business Agents chairman Mark Cuomo said that on Friday, another attempt was made by someone posing as the owner of a property, but was quickly identified as a fake by the agent with the bogus owner's name not matching that of the registered owner.

He said while the style of approach was different from the case of Mr Mildenhall, it highlights that attempts might increase after the successful sale of a home.

He said the onus is on real estate agents to be vigilant in checking all information about owners, especially where owners are overseas, or requests from owners asking for quick sales.

Submitted by Roger Buhlert – Cardinia Shire Council