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## Queenslanders fall victim to scams: RACQ Bank

RACQ Bank has issued a warning about the rise in financially damaging scams, as its new research revealed more than 62 percent of Queenslanders surveyed had been personally targeted or knew someone who had been targeted by scammers.

RACQ spokesperson Lucinda Ross said it was crucial people protected their personal information, with 22 percent of those surveyed having lost money in a scam.

“Unfortunately, we’re hearing about this all too often from our members and these scams seem to be getting more and more sophisticated and harder to recognise,” Ms Ross said.

“Scams can come in many forms, with victims often contacted through emails, phone calls, text messages and social media. Scammers pose as legitimate organisations like banks, insurance companies, health or government bodies to gain your trust and then take advantage of you.”

Ms Ross said there were a few simple steps Queenslanders could take to protect themselves from becoming a victim.

“While 87 percent of people surveyed who have been scammed, or knew a victim of a scam, said they were more cautious after the incident, we all need to be on alert,” she said.

“Remember to always trust your gut. If you’re concerned about the legitimacy of a call, hang up and ring the relevant organisation back directly.

“Never give out passwords or personal information, don’t click on links in texts or emails from people you don’t know, never send money to anyone you haven’t met and don’t give strangers access to your computer or mobile phone.”

Ms Ross said if someone believed they were the victim of a scam they should contact their bank immediately.

“Victims can sometimes feel embarrassed to come forward and admit they’ve been conned, but remember scammers can be very convincing and anyone can be fooled,” she said.

“If you notice a suspicious transaction, don’t delay in contacting your bank. The sooner they know about the fraudulent activity, the sooner they can take action.”

**Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Lucinda Ross 0447 196 258, Corporate Affairs Advisor Emma Green 0447 718 864.**

RACQ is Queensland’s largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State’s first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of more than 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.