

## SUBMISSION NO. 21

Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety  
Department of House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
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Australia

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Re: [http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jssc/senio\\_australians/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jssc/senio_australians/index.htm)

As a 84 year old, I have been encouraged to put my thoughts and experiences to the Committee by another respondent that thought that this might help me vent my feelings.

I have a 60 year old son who has been involved in an ongoing scam from what originated I believe was Ghana and Dubai.

To the best of my knowledge this has been ongoing since before 2008 when he in fact went to Ghana for a short visit. He has subsequently visited Dubai twice to try and recoup money.

He has admitted to me to having sent a total of \$1,300,000 in Australian money to these contacts in Ghana. Others in the family, as well as friends that I have spoken too, believe the total exceeds that amount.

As he became more perilous in his financial dealings, he borrowed money from others including family to the sum of \$30,000. Most have been on a once only twice shy basis with the reasons given for the borrowing being many and varied.

I am now told that he has not paid the latest Telstra account which now reached \$6000. Having been disconnected he now relies on prepaid mobile connection.

What now more concerns me as his father is that he has not paid the payments due on a \$150,000 mortgage taken out on his residential property that he jointly owns with his wife in the centre of Adelaide. This is compounded when he has also advised me that he was behind in his statutory payments to the Corporate body of the property.

His stories regarding the reasons for sending money to people he has never met and calls his friends are many. If published they would fill a book and read as quite unbelievable. Why would my nephews, nieces and grand-children laugh at the fables being recounted and their Uncle believe them in total. It deeply saddens me.

As the patriarch of my family, I cannot see a happy ending to this fable.

There has been significant friction with parents, siblings, and wider family members, as well as a loss of and respect from many friends of long standing.

In my later years I have become more frail of body than I would otherwise like to admit, and this now has placed limits on the contact that I can have with my son and the topics that we can discuss.

Given all of the above, my son has a wife that has MS, with all the limitations surrounding her infirmity. Their income is now restricted to their fortnightly superannuation payment, a big drop from a comfortable financial position. This of course has put a strain on their relationship, but his role as her carer puts a limit on her social and financial redress.

This is a brief summary of the position brought about over the last five years. The e-crime section of the South Australia. Police have been to visit him on at least two occasions. As the money had already been transferred via Western Union per the emailed instructions, SAPOL could only act in an advisory capacity given that the "house had already been robbed". I have subsequently found out that my son gave them the impression that they were wrong and he knew best. I now wonder whether my son was delusional in that his University Education reaffirmed and justified his decision making process.