



ATO scams – a case study



This sequence is intended as a framework to be modified and adapted by teachers to suit the needs of a class group.

Resources needed

- Be aware of what you share – Video
- Be aware of what you share – Video Viewing guide
- ATO scams – Response to stimulus worksheet

Suggested activity sequence

- 1 Play: This video is about how to identify illegitimate requests for information.

As the video is being played, students complete the *Video viewing guide*.

Be aware of what you share



- 2 Brainstorm a list of government departments, organisations or corporations that have legitimacy and people are likely to trust.

Examples include Centrelink, ATO and banks.

- 3 Discuss why organisations like these are prone to impersonation scams.

- 4 Students complete part 1 and 2 of the *Worksheet*.

- 5 Invite students to identify other impersonation scams they have heard about.

- 6 Conduct a class discussion on impersonation scams. Possible discussion points and responses include the following.

- What information could a scammer impersonating the ATO obtain from a phone call with a victim? Examples include name, TFN, driver's licence details, Medicare number, mobile phone number, online banking details.
- What steps could you take to prevent being scammed by people impersonating trusted organisations such as the ATO?
- What are some of the short- and long-term personal consequences of falling victim to a scam or providing personal identifying information? For example:
 - financial loss
 - scammers can take out loans in your name which may impact your credit rating, limiting your ability to gain a credit card, personal loan or mortgage



- scammers can start fraudulent businesses in your name impacting your ability to be a business owner in the future
 - emotional trauma
 - impacts on your ability to gain access to government services or welfare
 - use of sensitive private information or images to blackmail or coerce you
 - theft of your superannuation.
- Who should you give your personal information to and in what circumstances? For example, you can give your details including your TFN to your employer but only once you have commenced work and only on the legitimate TFN declaration form. Never quote your TFN or personal information like driver's licence in a job application.
- 7 Students complete part 3 of the worksheet.
 - 8 Invite students to share their information texts with the class.