



Neighbourhood Watch SA

SEPTEMBER 2025

Quarterly Neighbourhood Newsletter of Panorama NHW Area 64/193

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PANORAMA NHW AREA 64/193

NEXT MEETING

Trinity Church Hall,
Pasadena

Monday 7pm
15th September

COMMUNITY CONTACT



*Say Hello to our
Volunteers!*

NHW Information Table
Pasadena Shopping Centre
Saturday 21st September

Area Co-ordinator

Seshadri Vydyam

Ph: 0403486065

Panoramaneighbourhoodwatch@gmail.com

YOUR ZONE REP

Ph: _____

Reporting Graffiti

Council owned property

City of Mitcham 1300 133 466

Stobie poles or ETSA boxes

SA Power Networks 131 261

Private property 131 444

Offence in progress Dial 000

Scammers are pretending to be the ATO and myGov

ABC News 10 July 2025

Tax time is prime season for scammers.

It's a period where we're rushing to get our affairs in order, waiting to hear from the government about debts we'll have to pay, or refunds we'll receive.

Scammers know this and are poised to capitalise on the eagerness and financial anxiety many of us feel around the end of the financial year.

What is a tax time scam?

Tax time scams often come in the form of **phishing emails, texts or phone calls from scammers posing as the ATO or myGov.**

"Their goal is to trick people into clicking malicious links or handing over sensitive information," says Tyler McGee, from online protection company McAfee.

"With this information, scammers can commit identify theft, access your myGov account to redirect tax refunds, Centrelink payments or superannuation, or even lodge false tax returns in your name."

This is all done by **offering a link** in an email or text that **leads to a fake website.**

Data analysts at Australia and New Zealand's national identity and cyber support service, IDCARE, always detect a spike in scams impersonating the ATO in the three months after the EOFY.

"Last year, we saw a 105 per cent increase in the number of scams reported impersonating the ATO in the months after the EOFY to the general closing date for returns," IDCARE's Kathy Sundstrom says.

Why do scammers use tax time to target consumers?

Because most Australians are expecting to hear from the ATO or myGov, making fake messages seem more legitimate.

"There's also a sense of urgency and anxiety around tax deadlines, refunds, and the fear of making mistakes, which makes people more likely to respond without thinking," Mr McGee said.

Ms Sundstrom said because scammers send out millions of messages, they only need a **"small number of people to think the message makes sense for their scam to be hugely profitable"**.

What should I do if I receive a scam email or text?

Stop, think and protect yourself.

People fall victim to scams when their guard is down.

When you're expecting a tax refund, it's easy to act on autopilot and click a link in a text message or email when you receive one.

Remember to slow down and question whether it's legitimate.

If you receive suspicious communication from the ATO or myGov, don't give away any information, scan any codes or download any attachments. Delete it immediately.

MyGov emails should always be from noreply@my.gov.au.

Because scammers often make fake websites that mimic myGov, you should always access the website by typing my.gov.au into your browser or use the official myGov app, Ms Sundstrom says.

I've been scammed. What should I do?

You can call the Services Australia Scams and Identity Theft Helpdesk if you:

- opened a link in an email, text message or QR code
- shared your myGov details or personal information with a scammer
- downloaded a fake myGov app

If you have sent money to a scammer, you should contact your bank or financial institution immediately and ask them to stop any transactions.

They can also help you block or cancel any credit or debit cards if you shared those details with scammers.

IDCARE can also help give advice on securing your online accounts.

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What's Going On at Our Libraries?

Keep up-to-date with the City of Mitcham library service newsletter for news, events and activities.

The Blurb is sent to subscribers via email once a month. Subscribe to the Library Service by emailing library@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au or calling Mitcham Memorial Library on 8372 8244.

WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHSA?



NHW SA is a community crime prevention program delivered by the Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers Association of SA Inc. in partnership with SA Police. The vision of NHW SA is to create a safe and connected community.

Local Neighbourhood Watch Areas (like this one) work with local SA Police to help prevent crime. Together we can take action on local issues and help raise awareness of safety and security.

CRIME STOPPERS

Report information about criminals and suspicious activities to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at www.crimestopperssa.com.au

PROTECT YOURSELF KNOW THE SCAM

"I don't believe everything I'm told, do you?"

Anyone can be a target for scammers – so be on the look out. Scammers use sophisticated methods to take your money.

To learn how to **PROTECT YOURSELF** and **KNOW THE SCAM** visit www.scamwatch.gov.au

Report all scams to the police assistance line by calling 131 444.

Illegal tobacco products worth \$70,000 seized from stores across SA's Riverland

ABC News, 13 August, 2025

South Australia's illicit tobacco task force is continuing to see "larger volumes of product" seized in regional areas.

It comes as the task force raided six stores in the state's Riverland region last week, following "multiple complaints" to Consumer and Business Services (CBS).

More than 1,000 packets of illegal cigarettes, 500 vapes and 15 kilograms of loose tobacco were seized.

Three stores received 28-day closure orders, while another three stores received 72-hour interim closure orders.

Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs Andrea Michaels said about 20 per cent of the task force's raids were in regional areas, "potentially because they think they're not going to get picked up on".

Ms Michaels said some of the raids conducted nationally had involved organised crime gangs.

"It's essentially bkie gangs making their money to fund their other illegal operations," she said.

The minister noted that as CBS conducted more raids, the tactics of the organised crime gangs had changed.

"We [used to] see hundreds of packets of cigarettes being seized in one go, but they've changed their models to keep very low volumes of stock because they're getting more inspectors from CBS," Ms Michaels said.

Toughest laws in the country

The South Australian government invested an additional \$16 million in its last budget to create the illicit tobacco task force, employing 22 staff within CBS.

Ms Michaels said since July 1 last year the task force had removed \$30 million of illegal tobacco products from SA streets.

Reforms to the state's tobacco laws started on June 5, enforcing greater police powers, longer closure orders and harsher penalties for premises suspected of selling illegal tobacco and vapes.



The minister now has the power to shut illegal tobacco stores for up to 28 days and enforce closure orders of up to 12 months through a magistrate.

Under these amendments, SA now has the toughest penalties in the nation for those caught selling illicit tobacco and vapes, with fines of up to \$6.6 million.

Organised Crime

Australian Association of Convenience Stores (AACS) chief executive Theo Foukkare said organised crime gangs continued to flood the market, with about 4,000 illegal stores suspected across the country.

Mr Foukkare said SA has the "gold standard model" for combating the illicit tobacco trade and it should be applied on a federal level.

"In Australia today we have the Commonwealth set of laws and we also have different laws in each state. We need uniform enforcement and [the recognition of] a criminal association wrapped up into one to combat this," he said.

"We really need a different approach, otherwise within three to five years the entire nicotine market in Australia will be run by organised crime groups."

Mr Foukkare said the AACS would continue to advocate for national law change and crack down on organised crime gangs.

"If you're participating in selling illegal tobacco or vapes, you're effectively supporting organised criminals," he said.

Remember: See Something, Say something, Call Crime Stoppers

South Australia



Knife Law Changes

The South Australian Government has introduced new knife laws banning the possession of swords and machetes (that do not qualify for an exemption) and making it illegal to sell a knife to a minor under the age of 18.



These changes provide police with extra tools to prevent crime, take weapons off our streets, and to keep the community safe.

Knife crime legislation reforms (phase 2) will begin July 1, 2025.

The changes will amend the *Summary Offences Act 1953* and include:

- banning the sale of knives to minors (under 18 years old)
- creating a new criminal offence of supplying a knife to a minor
- existing offences involving knives and other offensive weapons at schools and public places to be expanded to also apply at education facilities more broadly (including childcare centres, kindergartens, preschools, and at universities, TAFE campuses and other tertiary education facilities) and places of worship
- classifying machetes and swords, which were previously offensive weapons, as prohibited weapons (meaning that their use, possession, sale, manufacture and other dealings will be more strictly controlled).

What exemptions apply?

The legislation allows you to lawfully surrender swords and machetes. If you are transporting a sword or machete to a police station you will be considered exempt.

What if I have a sword or machete?

If you have a sword or machete and you are not looking to retain them for the purposes covered by an exemption, you are required to surrender them to police.

How do I surrender a sword or machete?

There will be a three-month surrender period from 1 July 2025. You are encouraged to dispose of your prohibited weapon by taking it to your local police station (except for Hindley or Grenfell Street stations) from Tuesday, 1 July.

When transporting and surrendering your sword or machete you will need to:

- Ensure the weapon is safe by covering the blade with a sheath or thick cardboard and fixed/sticky taped in place.
- Ensure your behaviour is calm with no threatening movements.

You can remain anonymous.

After the three-month surrender period, swords and machetes may still be surrendered at a police station, however, personal details will then be required.

What do I do if I suspect someone of possessing an unlawful sword or machete or is intending to commit an offence with a knife?

You can make a report to Crime Stoppers online or call 1800 333 000.

How can I report businesses doing the wrong thing?

You can make a report by calling the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

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info@formulaaccounting.com.au
(08) 7221 1671
www.formulaaccounting.com.au

REPORTING CRIME

Emergencies

Call Triple Zero (000) in an emergency.

Where life or injury is threatened, or danger to people and property.

Non-Emergencies

Call 131444 for non-urgent police assistance.

For reporting after a crime, reporting a missing person or making police-related enquiries.

Crime Stoppers

Report information about criminals and suspicious activities to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at www.crimestopperssa.com.au

Cybercrime

To report cybercrime, or to get further information about frauds and scams, visit:

SAPOL: www.police.sa.gov.au/scams

AUSTRALIAN CYBER SECURITY CENTRE

Website: www.cyber.gov.au

IDCARE Phone: 1300 432 273

Web: www.idcare.org

SCAMwatch:

www.scamwatch.gov.au

Help protect your car and property from thieves!



Remove all your valuables from your vehicle.



Keep vehicle interior tidy, even shopping bags can entice thieves!



Tradies! Ensure tools and trade equipment are secure and out of sight.



Close your windows and lock your vehicle.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE**
SAFER COMMUNITIES

**Government of South Australia**

**Neighbourhood Watch SA**

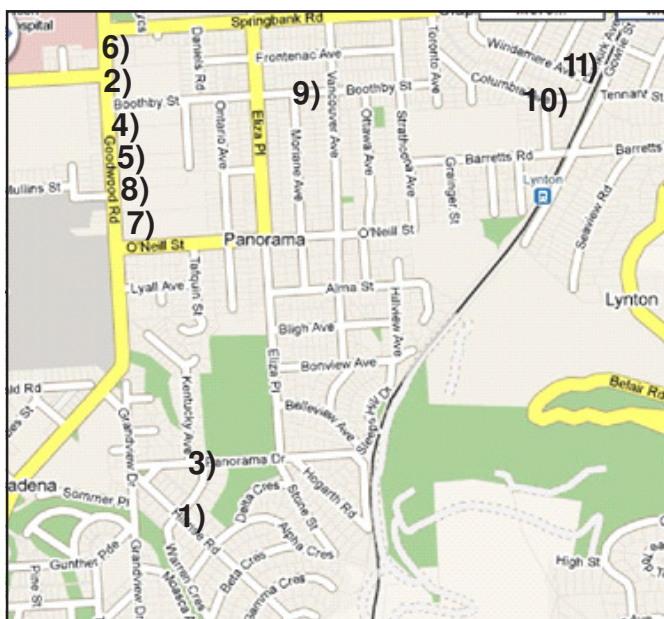
See Something,
Say Something,
Call Crime Stoppers

CRIME STOPPERS
.com.au
1800 333 000

South Australia

000 **THINK FIRST THEN DIAL** **POLICE ASSISTANCE 131 444**

Police Incidents 1 May - 31 July 2025



PROPERTY DAMAGE

1. 2 - 9/06/25 Hillrise Rd Window of vacant property smashed by unknown offender.
2. 27/06/25 Goodwood Rd Two males damaged property at business. Value \$2000

THEFT

3. 1/5/24 - 17/4/25 Panorama Ave Valuable stones stolen by unknown offender.
4. 10/06/25 Goodwood road 5 male offenders entered store and stolen a number of bottles of liquor. Value \$847.88
5. 13/06/25 Goodwood Rd Assault and theft. 3 males entered store, stole alcohol, then threatened staff who tried to stop them. Value \$650
6. 30/06/25 Goodwood Rd Male filled up with fuel and failed to pay. Value \$67.97
7. 12/07/25 Goodwood Road 3 juveniles entered store on scooters and stole liquor. Value \$68
8. 15/07/25 Goodwood Rd Theft of alcohol. Value \$276
9. 27 - 28/07/25 Boothby St Attempt made to steal number plates from parked car.

TRESPASS / BREAK-IN

10. 8/5/25 Columbia Ave Clapham Victim home when offender entered rear door and stole property. No confrontation. Value \$205.
11. 10 - 16/05 Dunkirk Ave Clapham Offenders entered rear of house and stole property.

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by SEELEY INTERNATIONAL

NADIA CLANCY MP

Member for Elder

448-452 Goodwood Road,
Cumberland Park SA 5041

PO Box 232, Daw Park SA 5041

elder@parliament.sa.gov.au

(08) 8374 1939

For Our Community



Authorised by N. Clancy, Parliament House, Adelaide SA 5000



**No.1 Agent
in Panorama**

Joe Marriott

0488 451 773

joe.marriott@raywhite.com