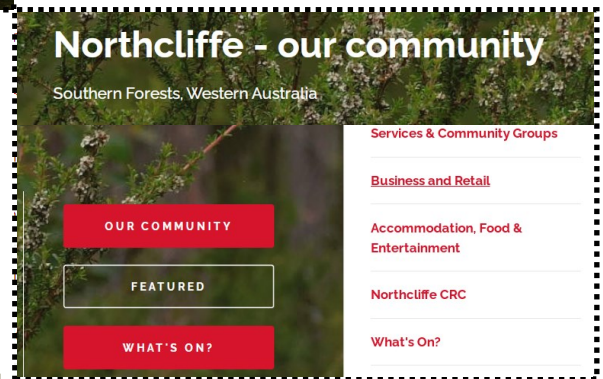


FREE advertising for Northcliffe based businesses, clubs & community groups...

...a way for residents to find local tradespeople, shops, groups, accommodation & websites.

To advertise drop into the Northcliffe Community Resource Centre during our open hours, or email us ncrc@northcliffe.org.au

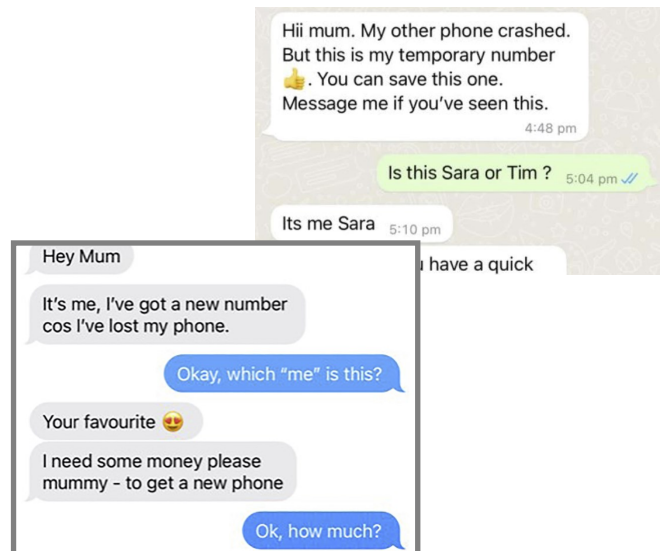


Scamwatch is urging the public to be wary of phone messages from a family member or friend claiming they need help. Scammers will stop at nothing to get your personal details or money and this particular scam is designed to pull your heartstrings.

Known as “Hi Mum” or “family impersonation” scams, victims are contacted - most often through WhatsApp - by a scammer posing as a family member or friend.

Some messages will simply say “it’s me,” while in other cases the scammers appear to have contact information and use the name of the person they are impersonating.

The scammer will claim they have lost or damaged their phone and are making contact from a new number. These requests continue the ruse of a lost or broken phone with the justification that the funds are needed because they can’t access their online banking temporarily.



Fake Electronics Scams

If it seems too good to be true, it probably is... For a few years now some Chinese electronics sellers have been the source of some highly imaginative and ambitious scams.

We’ve just read a report about a 30 TB (Terabyte) Solid State external hard drive selling on AliExpress for around \$50. Apparently some large stores (like Walmart in the USA) have had this exact (fake) item on their shelves. How did it fool the Walmart buyers, as well as lots of direct internet shoppers?

For a start it has a nice aluminium case and proper packaging with 30TB and all the right things written on it.

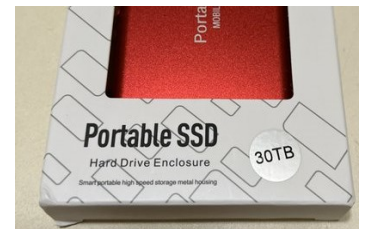
It also says USB 3.1, but when tested it is a much slower USB 2.0 drive. This slow speed means it would take a tester 500 days to check the full 30TB of storage is all legitimate.

It was easier that this to find the scam though. When cracked open it contained two 512MB SD cards and a little card reader and that’s it! To put it in perspective that is 30,000 times less storage than advertised. The weird thing is, the hard drive has been hacked to tell Windows it has 30TB of storage. After you use up the 1 GB it actually has, the drive just

overwrites that same 1GB over and over again, ruining your files. Windows doesn’t even know something has gone wrong—but you will when you try to get your file back.

So, not only are you \$50 down, you have just had your files destroyed. Nice. Buying cheap computer hardware can ruin your day in lots of other ways: by installing malware on your computer or causing electrical damage when you plug it in.

Buying name brand hard drives (like Sandisk or Samsung), from reputable stores (like Officeworks) is a safer bet but scammers can also sell hardware claiming to be name brand. Have a look at the old bolts shipped to this person on the left—a fake ‘Toshiba hard drive’.



Left: There is a small usb drive wired to socket so people think they have a working drive. Bolts are used make the drive feel heavier.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10am to 5pm | Thursday, Friday 10 am to 6pm