



NATIONAL IDENTITY FRAUD AWARENESS WEEK 2008

Fact Sheet

Key Findings from News poll research:

Commissioned by Unisys Security Index – May 2008

- For 60% of Australians, ID Fraud is their greatest fear, higher than the concern over an act of terrorism (38%), a serious health epidemic (36%), or meeting their future financial obligations (33%).

Commissioned by Fellowes Australia – April 2008

- 70% of Australians throw out enough personal information (such as credit card and bank statements, utility bills) to put them at risk of identity theft

Galaxy Research - commissioned by Veda Advantage

- 3.8 million Australians, or 23% of the population, have been affected by identity theft and more than half (57%) of those affected by fraud have done nothing to protect themselves from a future attack.
- Despite the growing concern of identity crimes, 70% of Australians have not taken even simple measures, such as shredding documents, to protect themselves from identity crimes.
- Young people aged between 16 and 24 were the least likely to protect themselves from identity theft, with nine-out-of-ten not taking any measures to protect themselves

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

- First ever study shows half million Australians victim to ID Fraud in the last 12 months and estimated cost \$1 billion. Just over half of these people (54%) were male and 46% female
- Identity theft accounted for 124,000 victims of identity fraud. These victims included those who experienced unauthorised use of their personal details, such as a driver's license, tax file number, or passport through fraudulent or forged identification documents, or unauthorised appropriation of their identity through any other means to conduct business, open accounts or take out loans illegally in their name.
- There were varying rates of victimisation for identity frauds across the states and territories of Australia in the 12 months prior to the survey. Western Australia had the highest victimisation rate for all combined identity frauds, at 3.5% of the population aged 15 years and over (56,100 people), followed by Victoria (3.4% or 141,300 people). South Australia had the lowest victimisation rate at 2.2% or 27,600 people.
- Only 76% of credit or bank card victims reported the incidents to a law enforcement agency, financial institution or other formal entity