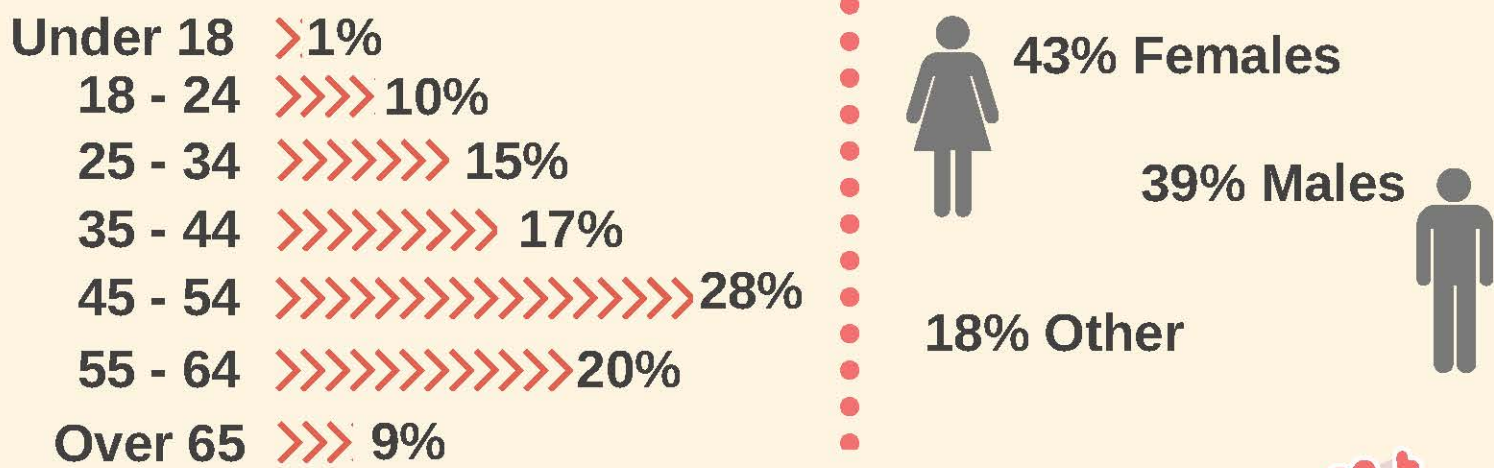


# ROMANCE SCAMS



## WHO THEY TARGET & HOW

In 2015 Australians lost **\$22,587,162** to dating and romance scams. The victims of these scams varied:



Most scams were delivered through the internet (26.3%), Social networking (23.9%) and email (25.3%).

Statistics taken from ACCC's ScamWatch website.

## WARNING SIGNS

Vague, poorly written, messages which may even address you by the wrong name.

They always have an excuse for why they can't travel to meet you.

Their social media or dating profiles are not consistent with what they tell you.

They tell you an elaborate story and ask for money or your bank account/credit card details, often after weeks, months or years of communication.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU'VE BEEN SCAMMED

### Contact your bank as soon as possible.

They may be able to stop a money transfer or cheque, or close your account if the scammer has your account details.

Your credit card provider may be able to perform a 'charge back' (reverse the transaction) if your credit card was billed fraudulently.

### Report the scam.

By making a report to the appropriate agency, you help them identify scammers and warn other people about the scam.

### Seek support.

If you have lost money, you may also be feeling vulnerable and in need of guidance. Seek out support from friends, family and community organisations.