[**Risk of Scams**](https://youtu.be/IMiJqZOyWuY)

**Narrator:**

This Vignette concerns Financial risk.

Interviewees will be discussing the Risk of Scams.

This risk perception is about experiences of money-related, malicious intent, online. It usually manifests as a fear of digitalised money.

In this section, you will hear a number of video vignettes extracted from interviews with older Australians.

We first hear from Graeme, aged 76, about being scammed and recognising it before it is too late.

**Graeme:**

I was scammed because I was a bloody idiot, and I have to admit it. I got a telephone call. They reported to be from Telstra. They were so damn convincing I gave them my bank number, and I was very lucky. As soon as I put the phone down, I said, "You bloody idiot." I rang Westpac, explained to them what had happened, and they cancelled the payment. The bastard rang back and said, "Where's our money?" And I told him, "You scammed me," and they slammed the phone down.

**Narrator:**

Another example of being scammed, through social media, Helen, aged 70, speaks to how this brings these risks into your personal and social circles.

**Helen:**

The other thing that happened was someone just trying to scam me through, must of been through Facebook. That was another interesting thing, you're going to win this much money. Now, the first encounter was your friend Linda so and so gave me your number to ring. Still and I reflect at how, excuse me, \*\*\*\*\*\*\* cunning they are at what they do.

This girl Linda lived in New Zealand, and it was about winning some money and you paying $1,000. I was paid $1,000, but I really got them, so I rang a good friend and he said, "I've heard about a scam and what you're saying is how it fits." Then I spoke to one of my daughters and the same sort of thing. This woman was pretending to be this friend in New Zealand because I rang the friend in New Zealand, she was watching me like a hawk on this thing. I sent her a message asking how did she handle it?

The message came that, supposedly from her, so I was a bit more reassured thinking that she was someone that I respect, and she's an accountant and all that sort of thing. Then I spoke to my personal friend who said if they ask you for more money, just don't give them any more money and get out of it.”

**Narrator:**

Finally relating the story of a friend, Sally, aged 85, discusses how a lack of technology literacy can lead to being more vulnerable to scamming, however, this isn’t always the case.

**Sally:**

Well, I'd say this friend of mine who is so resistant to technology, who was rung by somebody purporting to be a Telstra employee. And managed to get her to open her computer, and give her bank details to them. That's when she lost quite a lot of money and ... And the way I felt was, it could've happened to anybody, it's a very common way that people are relieved of a fair bit of money.

In fact, another friend who actually owned an IT business, who's extremely technologically savvy, managed to lose $50,000 recently.

**Narrator:**

These vignettes were developed by the Shaping Connections Research Program at RMIT University’s School of Economics, Finance, and Marketing.

Our research develops insights on social inclusion and technology use among older Australians.

Please find additional information about these vignettes in the video description below.

You can get more information about the project by visiting www.shapingconnections.org. if you have any questions, comments, or feedback please use the contact us section of the website and we will get back to you.