



**MBE BUSINESS  
SERVICE CENTRES**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

22 January 2009

### **MBE Parramatta advises households to be vigilant of identity thieves**

MBE Parramatta's Charles Batt today advised local residents to be vigilant of scams that try to steal their identity.

The warning follows news today that NSW Police had arrested and charged a 22-year-old Blacktown woman after she allegedly used her neighbours' mail to transfer cash and buy goods over the internet.

More than \$42,000 was allegedly transferred from the accounts of a number of residents in an Ashfield unit block and a further \$23,000 worth of goods were allegedly illegally purchased using internet shopping websites.

"It's incredible the amount of personal and financial information simply lying about unsecured in street letterboxes", said Charles Batt, Manager, MBE Parramatta. "Few people would allow others to access their personal email without a password, yet we receive the same types of documents in the post and the majority of street letterboxes are completely unprotected."

To significantly reduce the risk of identity theft, Batt recommends households consider a private mailbox.

"Our private mail receiving service greatly enhances the security of sensitive mail and allows people concerned about identity theft to take that crucial extra step in maintaining their privacy."

The MBE Private Mailbox Service has a full street address that allows householders to keep their real residential address confidential. Items such as cheques, bank statements, bills, medical records and other private correspondence are received at the MBE street address – not a post office box number. This allows the resident's mail to be treated in the same manner as a person who opts for a silent telephone number.

Batt continues, "The mail is received directly from Australia Post and placed in a locked, secure mailbox in a well presented, well-lit MBE lobby area. Access to the mail is on a 24/7 basis or else

More follows

the contents can be forwarded on to another destination, anywhere in the world. Compare that with mail being dropped into an unsecured letterbox out on the street, with all the possible theft and fraud implications.”

Batt also reminded people to shred old bills, financial records, receipts and expired credit and other cards, and never give out personal information to someone they don't know and trust.

“Identity thieves will use any number of methods to build up a profile on people – including rummaging in garbage for records of past purchases, expired credit cards or telephone and utility bills. Destroy these by ripping them up or shredding them before you discard them. Your personal information is valuable; don't let it fall into the wrong hands.”

MBE has more than 40 locations throughout Australia including Smith St, Parramatta.

In addition to private mailboxes, MBE also provides a complete range of business and office services including telephone answering, couriers, office supplies, packaging, printing and copying. For further information contact MBE on 1800 556 245 or log on to [www.mbe.com.au](http://www.mbe.com.au).

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