



## Give a damn about online scams: free clinics on offer

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**IDCARE Managing Director Dr David Lacey and program manager Sarah Cavanagh will be delivering free Cyber Resilience Outreach Clinics (CROCs) during July.**

Do you have questions about online scams, cybercrime and identity theft?

In partnership with IDCARE, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is hosting free Cyber Resilience Outreach Clinics (CROCs) at Meekatharra, Yule River and Carnarvon during July.

IDCARE is a not-for-profit Australian charity that found Australians living in remote and regional communities are three times more likely to be impacted by cybercrime and scams than their city counterparts, as well as experience higher financial losses.

In 2022, a record 1203 Western Australians reported total scam losses of almost \$16 million to ScamNet – a \$1.2 million increase from the 1041 losses reported in 2021 and a \$4.2 million increase from 952 losses reported in 2020.

An Australian Competition and Consumer Commission survey has indicated that about only 13 per cent of scam losses are reported to regulators.

“This alarming data shows that, as scams become more sophisticated, more Western Australians are falling victim to them, resulting in larger losses,” IDCARE Managing Director Dr David Lacey said.

“It also highlights the importance of fostering awareness and resilience in the fight against cybercrimes, scams and identity theft.”



IDCARE Cyber Resilience Outreach Clinics Program Manager Sarah Cavanagh said the CROCs would also provide resources on how to stay safe from scams and practical steps to navigate safely online.

“There is a range of identity and cyber security concerns people should be aware of, including identity theft, remote access to devices, hacking, phishing, telephone scams, relationship scams, investment scams, data breaches, ransomware, and lost or stolen credentials,” she said.

“The good news is there are some simple, practical steps everyone can take to navigate safely online and that is what we will share with the community.”

YMAC CEO Simon Hawkins said the free CROCs will provide valuable information to First Nations people regarding high-tech, deceptive and persuasive tricks used by cyber criminals.

“The CROCs are chance to learn more about staying safe from scams, cybercrime and identity theft, and also hear about data breaches and what they mean for you,” he said.

CROC locations, dates and times:

- **Meekatharra:** 9.30am-11.30am, 11 July, outside the Community Resource Centre, 64-68 Main Street
- **Yule River:** 9am-3pm, 13 July, Annual On-Country Bush Meeting
- **Carnarvon:** 9am-11.30am, 18 July, outside YMAC’s office, 4 Francis Street

No bookings are required – people can attend at any time between the hours given.

Ends

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#### **About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation**

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB), delivering native title and other services across the Pilbara, Mid West, Murchison and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. YMAC is run by a First Nations board of directors, representing several native title groups, each of whom have their own language, culture, traditions and protocols. YMAC services include native title claim and future act representation; heritage services; executive office, community, and economic development assistance; land administration, and natural resource management support.

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