

## Advisory for Indian nationals on fraudulent phone calls

Since last 2/3 years, the instances of fraud calls scam are going on by some unknown persons posing as High Commission/Consulate officials, purportedly calling from High Commission/Consulate phone numbers, targeting the Indian nationals. The caller threatens Indians (usually Indian passport holders) suggesting that they are in trouble on account of providing false information pertaining to his/her immigration, to the Australian government.

The caller usually states that local authorities (Australian Immigration/DIBP/MHA) are initiating proceedings against them and they would be deported to India soon. Offering assistance after such a threat, the caller urges him to immediately transfer the money to an account via Western Union. The caller does not allow disconnecting the phone or any thinking time.

Consulate General of India, Sydney would like to caution Indian nationals and members of the Indian Diaspora not to respond or pay any money at the advice of fraudulent calls. Consulate General of India, Sydney does not make any such calls for payment/transfer of money into the account.

If any Indian citizen receives such calls, he/she should immediately write to the Consulate General of India, Sydney —at <a href="mailto:cons.sydney@mea.gov.in">cons.sydney@mea.gov.in</a>