

In a project funded by ACCAN, researchers at the Australian National University and IDCARE, Australia's national identity support service, analysed 4000 Australian identity theft cases. Here are some of the findings.

Identity Theft Attacks

Identity thieves use a variety of tactics and techniques to compromise an identity. Any identity, regardless of age or gender, is useful and valuable to them.

In total, more than 40 different types of identity documentation were targeted by identity thieves. These included passports, pension cards, utility account statements, superannuation details, university testamurs and student cards.

Most commonly compromised identity document:

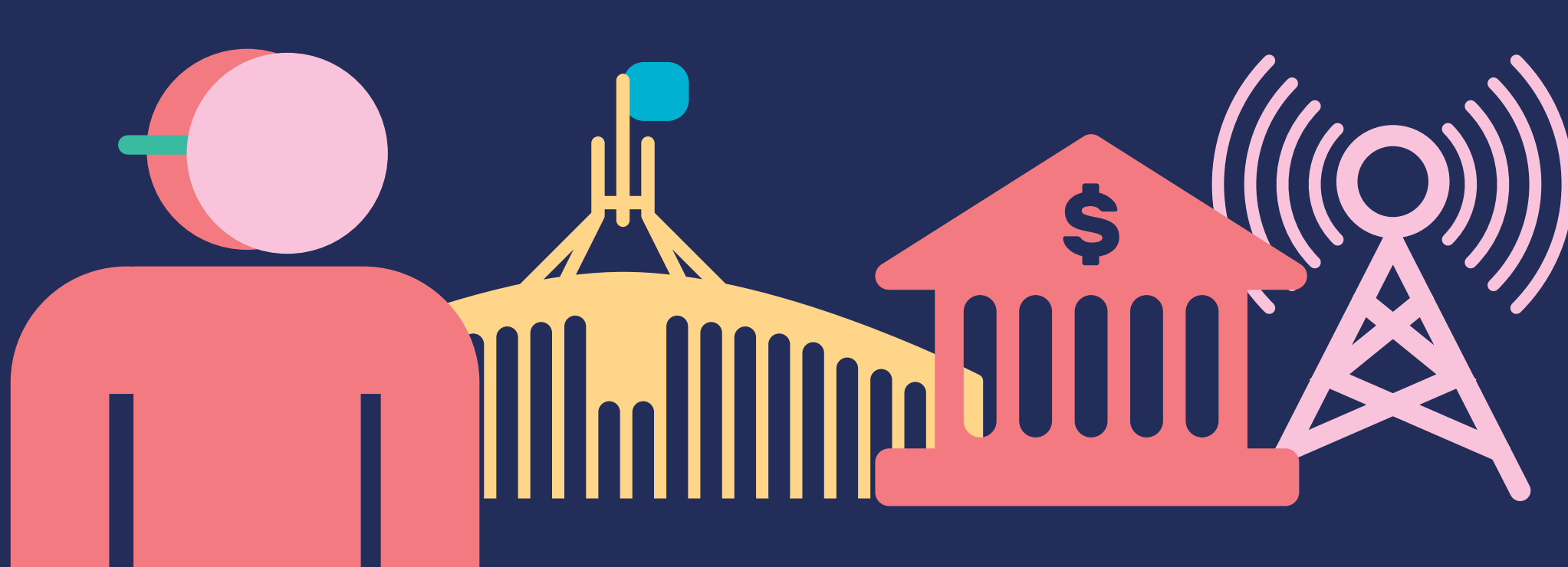
Drivers licence

40+

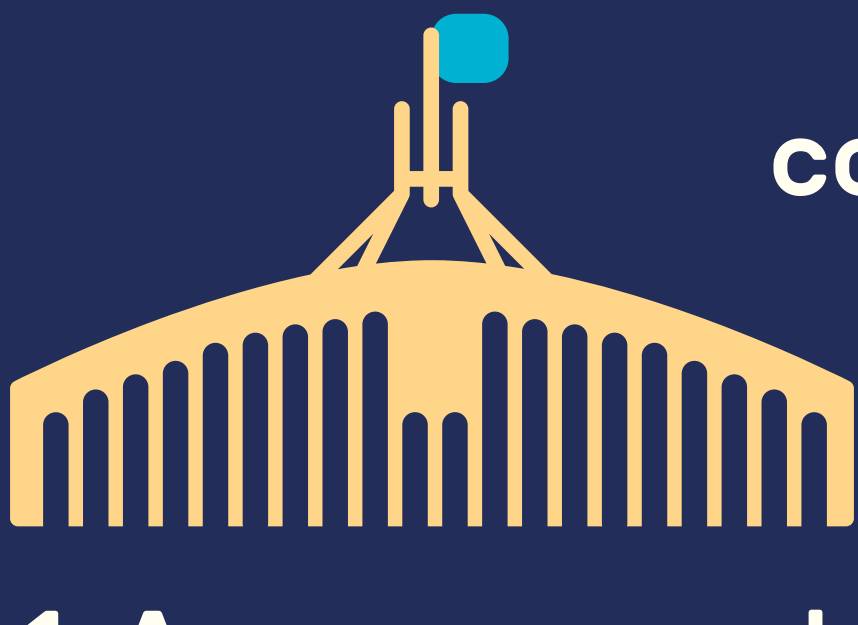


Identity theft victims were most commonly impersonated to a bank, a telecommunications provider, or a government department.

These three targets comprised 94% of cases.



Most commonly impersonated identity:



1. A government office

2. Tele-communications employee

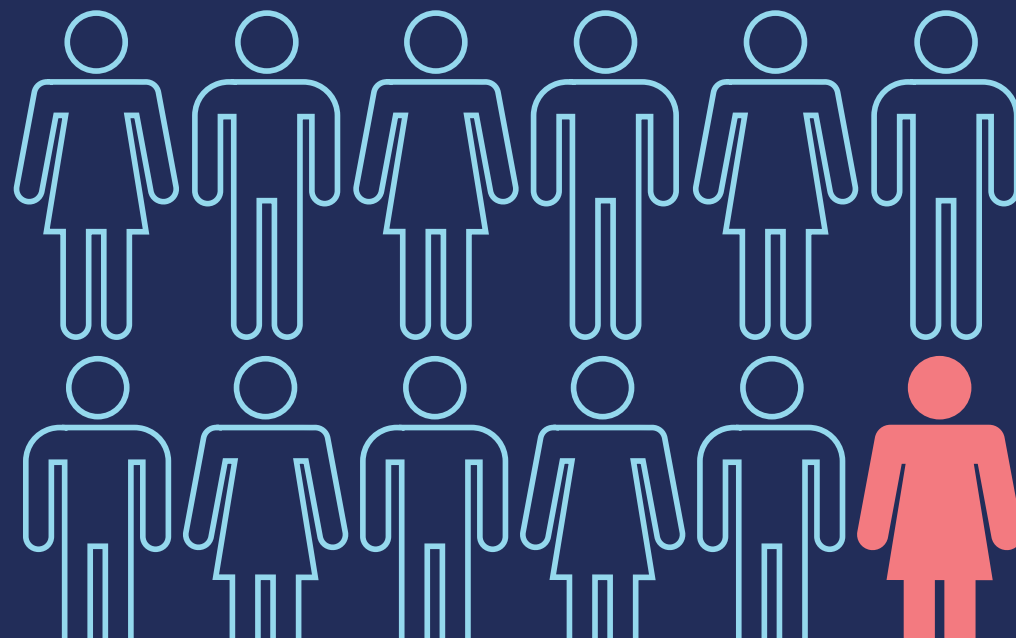


3. Bank employee

Victims were twice as likely to **call their bank** rather than law enforcement following an identity theft attack

1 in 12 victims

could not identify any adverse outcomes from the identity theft



Most common statement following an identity theft attack:

"I am normally so careful."



Most common emotional response following an identity theft attack:

stupid



Victims often feel ashamed, angry and embarrassed following an identity theft attack.

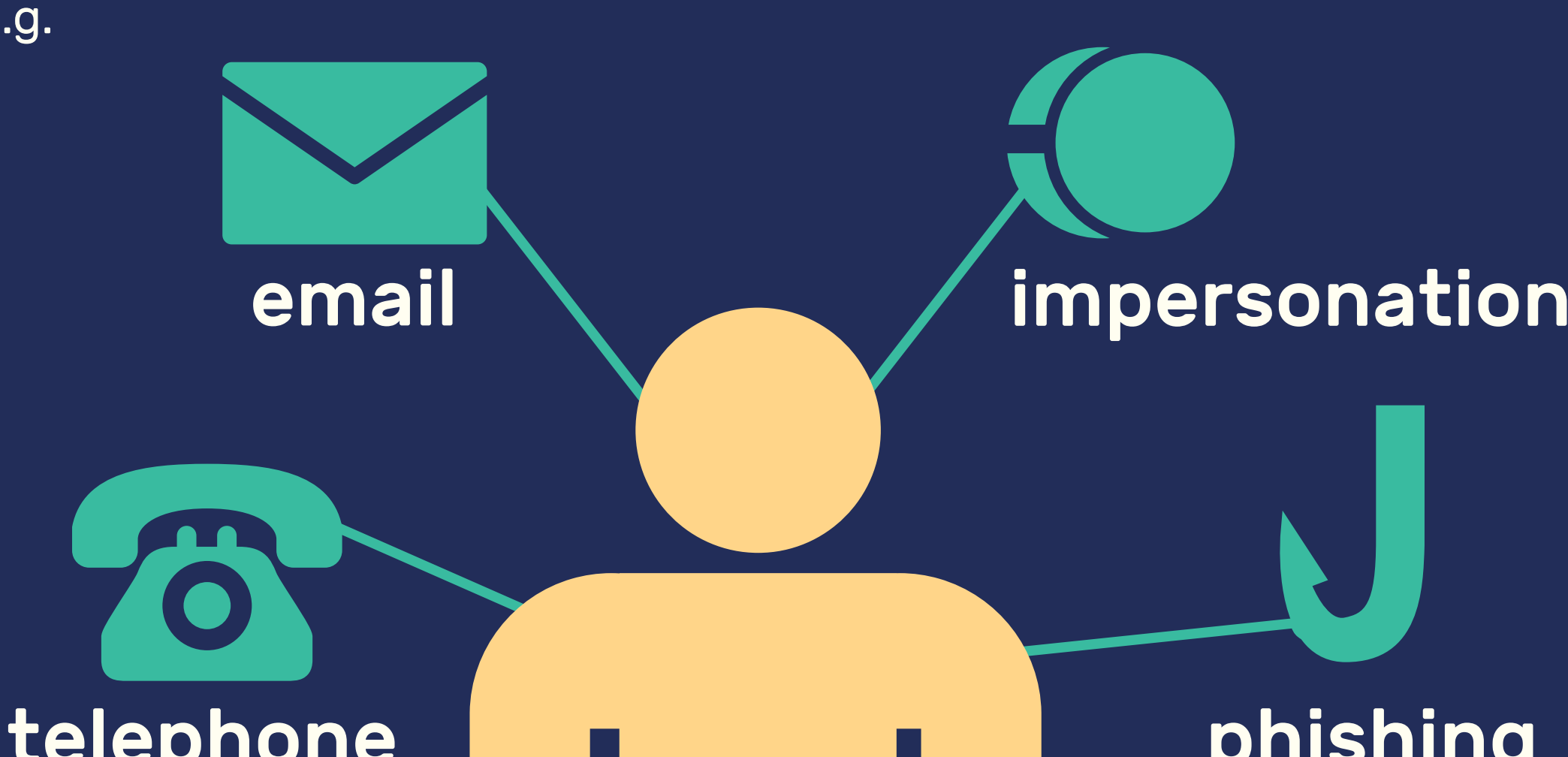
Identity theft attacks have highly diverse outcomes:

- False police information
- False tax return
- False medical benefits
- False tenancy application

The victim's bank account is the most frequently targeted



The most financially damaging identity theft incidents involve **More than one attack type** e.g.



If you think you've been a victim of identity theft, you need to act quickly—CALL IDCARE 1300 432 273 or visit www.idcare.org (free community service that provides assistance, advocacy and response plans).

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