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Office of Fair Trading warns against Queensland scam operator

THE QUEENSLAND

OFFICE of Fair Trading (OFT) has issued a formal warning not to deal with the Gold Coast-based company Little Boy Press, or its owners Phillip Conquest and Bruce Pollard.

OFT executed three search warrants last month on business and residential premises associated with the business.

Fair Trading executive director Brian Bauer said Little Boy Press had allegedly engaged in invoice fraud by billing for services it never supplied.

"The target of the scam was asked to sponsor a local

community organisation or business by paying for the printing of materials in exchange for an advertisement," Mr Bauer said.

"In one case the scammers used the name of a local bowls club and the lure of an advertisement placed on the club's scorecards. The victim paid Little Boy Press for the printing of the scorecards, but they were never supplied.

The scam was uncovered when the victim asked a legitimate member of the bowls club how the scorecards were being received by members, only to

discover the bowls club had no knowledge of the supposed scorecards."

Mr Bauer said the OFT was seeking information from any community organisation or business who has had dealings with Little Boy Press or its owners.

"It's possible there are a number of victims who are unaware they have been scammed," he said.

Invoice fraud or false billing is a common scam often characterised by fake advertising directories or products.

"If you receive calls seeking payment, always double check that you have actually ordered

and received the advertising service," Mr Bauer said.

"These scammers prey on time-poor business owners who assume that another staff member placed or authorised the advertising service.

"Sophisticated scammers will even offer to send copies of the advertisement, but providing one copy of an advertisement doesn't prove it was printed and distributed.

"Never pay an invoice unless the person demanding payment can prove you authorised it."

Affected businesses can make a complaint via the OFT website. [🔗](#)

Lighting Council Australia's CEO appointed secretary general of Global Lighting Association

LIGHTING COUNCIL

AUSTRALIA'S chief executive Bryan Douglas has been appointed secretary general of the Global Lighting Association.

The Lighting Council Australia chairman Russell Loane OAM said the appointment by the Board of the Global Lighting Association is a reflection of the high regard held for both Mr Douglas and Lighting Council Australia.

Mr Douglas said the appointment will provide Lighting Council Australia with special insights at a time of significant change in the global lighting industry.

"With the advent of large scale ledification and digitalisation as well as the associated profound growth in manufacturing, it is an exciting time to assume the role of secretary general of the Global Lighting Association," he said. [🔗](#)



Bryan Douglas

LASER GROUP LEADS GOLD COAST CHARITY FACILITY REVAMP

EACH YEAR, LASER

Plumbing and Electrical members from Australia and New Zealand host a charity taskforce project as part of the company's International Conference.

The charity chosen for the 2014 project was the Gold Coast Youth Service in Queensland, which provides people aged 12-25-years-old at risk of homelessness or displacement with a home and supporting environment. Work on the charity's premises were carried out in August.

Laser Group Queensland state director Gary Larkin said he had liaised with Laser's key supplier network in the state to organise in excess of \$60,000 worth of product donations that were used onsite.

In addition to the product donations, Laser Group also

donated the labour of roughly 60 plumbers and electricians to carry out the works.

"Our members really enjoy these days. They get a real buzz out of giving back to the community and working alongside their mates," Mr Larkin said.

"It's an opportunity not only to catch up and talk to suppliers, but also to utilise their expertise and be involved in a project that makes a real difference in the community."

During the revamp Laser Electrical Group (Australia and New Zealand) conducted extensive electrical work, including the installation of energy efficient LED light fittings, new fans, power points, light switches, smoke alarms, data outlets, heated towel rails, security sensor lights, dimmers and a television. [🔗](#)