



Under the auspices of



Media Release

28 June – 1 July 2007:
Adelaide
Convention Centre,
South Australia,
Australia

28 June – 1 July 2007: Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia, Australia

Media Release

26 June 2007

Australian businesses at risk of white-collar crime, says expert

White-collar crime costs billions of dollars each year and it is imperative Australian businesses know how to prevent it, according to psychologist David Curnow.

“Understanding the psychological profile of a white-collar offender can help organisations to protect themselves,” said Mr Curnow.

“Many people are surprised that generally they are homeowners, who are well educated, non-substance abusers and married. This makes them different to other offenders in the criminal justice system.

“Some common personality traits can include being insincere, arrogant, manipulative, bullying, unethical and remorseless, which certainly are similar to those in the criminal justice system.

“Sometimes they are pathological liars, display superficial charm, fail to accept responsibility for their own actions and have a lack of realistic, long-term goals. Some offenders may have worked for the company for a long time and actually be considered trusted employees.”

Mr Curnow said white-collar offenders are often motivated to embezzle money through greed, gambling and wanting to maintain a lavish lifestyle.

“White-collar offenders will often identify an opportunity to steal only when they need the money, even though they may have had the opportunity for some time. They often perceive the risk to be low, as they believe they are aware of all the internal security procedures in place.”

“Companies should also be monitoring how their workplace culture can encourage employees to rationalise stealing. For example, maintaining workloads that require employees to spend more time at work, but not paying overtime.

<more>

Principle sponsor



Also sponsored by



MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Please direct all
media queries to:

Elaine Grant
+61 412 683 068

Ellise Chapman
+61 428 445 097



Under the auspices of



Media Release

28 June – 1 July 2007:
Adelaide
Convention Centre,
South Australia,
Australia

28 June – 1 July 2007: Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia, Australia

“While many companies focus on screening new staff, research has shown that people who had been with a company for around five years presented the biggest risk,” he said.

Tips for businesses:

1. Practical measures such as pre-employment integrity testing, criminal records checks, external audits, key passes and computer passwords are vital.
2. Employees, including managers, should be assessed at the pre-employment stage and every year, through a format similar to an employee satisfaction survey.
3. Risk factors such as financial status and gambling issues can be assessed through this process. Businesses can then offer individuals support to reduce the risk of small problems becoming a major problem for the company.

Mr Curnow will present, *‘Bad Apples or Bad Barrels? A model of risk assessment for embezzlement’* at the Australian Psychological Society Industrial and Organisational Psychology (IOP) Conference at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 28 June to 1 July.

For more information visit: www.iopconference.com.au.

<ends>

Mr Curnow is available for interview during the conference. Please contact Elaine Grant on: 0412 683 068.

Principle sponsor



Also sponsored by



MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Please direct all
media queries to:

Elaine Grant
+61 412 683 068

Ellise Chapman
+61 428 445 097