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Real-ity romance scam – Thea’s Story

Thea was the target of an online romance scam. She started chatting online with a man, he was Italian. So sweet and caring. They had everything in common and made plans for their future together – from exploring Aotearoa to retiring. Suddenly, the next message came, he was stuck in Singapore with his accounts locked. Thea didn’t think twice when he then asked her for money.

This scammer had played the long game with Thea which only made it more devastating. She was left heartbroken and embarrassed.

Verify the identity of the recipient before sharing any information

Don’t respond to requests or hints for money, and never send money to anyone you don’t know or haven’t met in person.

Why it matters



Scammers will try to take advantage of someone looking for a relationship online. Once they’ve gained your trust, the scammer will start to ask you for money, gifts or personal details that can be used to commit fraud.

Thea was involved in an online romance scam. She doesn’t want you to be.

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