1 NOVEMBER 2021

CSCRC ransomware campaign drives awareness

Ransomware attacks across Australia continue to bring businesses to their knees, causing massive disruptions and costing millions to remediate. Alarmingly, however, most Australians have a limited understanding of how ransomware attacks occur, which is why the Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre (CSCRC) has launched a new awareness campaign, *Be aware of ransomware*.

CSCRC CEO Rachael Falk said that while ransomware presented a serious threat to Australian organisations, there were ways to mitigate risk, bolster defences and protect against attack. And people lay at the heart of the issue.

"Ultimately, all it takes is one person to click on one malicious link and an entire business can be locked up," Ms Falk said. "That's why we've launched this campaign – to help all Australians who use a computer at work every day understand they are at the frontline in the fight against ransomware."

This year, a CSCRC survey analysing Australians' understanding of ransomware found 75 per cent of respondents would not know what to do if they fell victim to a ransomware attack, and only 42 per cent understood how a ransomware attack occurred.

Minister for Home Affairs Karen Andrews said the awareness campaign comes as reports of ransomware attacks are rising.

"The threat of ransomware is more prominent than ever before. It can cost victims time and money, interrupting the operations of businesses right across the country," Minister Andrews said.

"While the Government is acting to target this threat through our Ransomware Action Plan, Australian businesses can also take action now to better protect themselves."

The campaign comprises an animation that can be shared across social media and a webpage, that includes information about ransomware and downloadable resources. Visit the webpage at www.cybersecuritycrc.org.au/ransomware.

If you are the victim of a ransomware attack, contact the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) at www.cyber.gov.au.

For more information contact:
Amber Austin-Wright, Communications Manager
P: 0478 778 060   E: amber.austin-wright@cybersecuritycrc.org.au