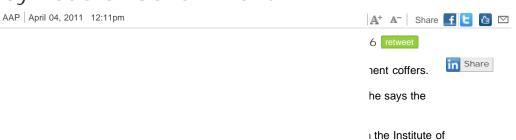


Business



Fraudsters pinch 18c in every \$100 outlaid by Federal Government





"It's a significant sum," Mr O'Connor told ABC Radio.

"It's 18 cents in every \$100 outlaid by the Commonwealth."

As part of the study, hundreds of public servants were investigated for misusing credit cards, stealing equipment and passing on confidential information.

More than 800,000 incidents of fraud were recorded by Centrelink, Customs and other government agencies in 2008-09.

The report looks at the combination of public and private fraud.

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"Fraud has been identified as the most expensive crime category in Australia," the report says.

Mr O'Connor said the Government was well aware of the problem and was looking at how to improve its defences.

"It's millions and millions of dollars and we need to make sure we do everything we can to prevent such fraud," he said.

An extra 827 fraud control staff have been employed across government agencies in the past 12 months.



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