



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Protecting your online trading account

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Online securities trading offers great flexibility for share investing from home for competitive prices and is increasingly popular.

Online websites that undertake financial transactions typically use high security encryption and continuous monitoring to protect investors and these measures have proven effective over many years.

As with any online activity, it is important that users of online trading services take steps to ensure they minimise any risk of their account or personal computer being compromised.

AFMA advises that if you have an online trading account you should ensure:

- Your online account password is strong (consider using a phrase and some numbers and characters rather than a word), change it regularly and do not store it on your computer;
- You should regularly check your account activity for any unauthorised activity;
- You take care when using publicly available or shared computers; and
- Your personal computer's security is up-to-date. To do this you should:
  - Install reputable anti-virus software and keep it up-to-date;
  - Ensure your computer's firewall is turned on;
  - Ensure your computer is set to install updates as soon as they become available;
  - Do not open suspicious emails (delete them unopened);
  - Only install trusted software and only visit trusted websites; and
  - Ensure your system's back-up process is set up and working properly.

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#### Notes for Editors:

The Australian Financial Markets Association (AFMA) is the leading industry association promoting efficiency, integrity and professionalism in Australia's financial markets and provides leadership in advancing the interests of all market participants. These markets are an integral feature of the economy and perform the vital function of facilitating the efficient use of capital and management of risk. Market participants perform a range of important roles within these markets, including financial intermediation and market making.

AFMA represents over 130 members, including Australian and international banks, leading brokers, securities companies, state government treasury corporations, fund managers, traders in electricity and other specialised markets and industry service providers.