

# The Sydney Morning Herald

EXCLUSIVE NATIONAL NSW CRIME

## 'Make money work for me': Sydney man charged with stealing \$100,000 via phone porting

By [Sally Rawsthorne](#)

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A Sydney man who says he is "in a process not to work for \$Money\$ but to make \$Money\$ work for me" has been charged with stealing more than \$100,000 through taking over 70 people's mobile phones and changing their banking log-ins.

Shalin Patel, 22, is accused of being part of an identity theft syndicate that police will allege ported mobile phones from one carrier to another, then contacted their bank to change their log-in and password information.



Shalin Patel was arrested at his Doonside home on Tuesday. FACEBOOK

Then, investigators say, he registered the phone for Apple Pay which he used to fraudulently purchase goods and transfer money to offshore accounts.

Mr Patel is also accused of laundering \$48,000.

On Tuesday, detectives from the State Crime Command's strike force Quinlan raided homes in Doonside and Granville, seizing mobile phones, laptops, identity documentation, numerous luxury goods including men's watches, boxes of electronic goods, clothing and banking records.



Shalin Patel FACEBOOK

Mr Patel was arrested at the Doonside home and taken to Blacktown Police Station and charged with four counts of unauthorised modification of data, two counts of recklessly dealing with the proceeds of crime, dealing with identity information with intent to commit an indictable offence, participating in criminal group, and attempting to obtain benefit by deception.

He was granted bail to appear in Blacktown Local Court on April 11.

Police say that more arrests are expected. Investigators also believe there are more victims.

Cybercrime Squad Commander Detective Superintendent Matt Craft warned that identity theft via mobile phone porting was becoming more common.

"In 2019, a mobile phone is central to a person's financial security. It contains important information and when compromised, it can be devastating," he said.

"While it can be difficult for telecommunication companies to identify the legitimacy of a request to swap networks, as many elements of an identity takeover have already been undertaken, we are concerned about the financial and emotional impact on victims.

"Generally speaking, the first a victim will know that their identity is being taken over is losing signal on their mobile phone, and in many cases, by the time they work out what has happened, they've lost access to their bank accounts and other services."

Mr Patel's Facebook page describes him as: "In a process to not work for \$Money\$ but to make \$Money\$ work for me #OneDay".

Last year, he shared a video called "Your Job is a Waste of Your Life".

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