

Employee Jailed Over Mobile Thefts

By Christine Flatley

July 25, 2007 01:36pm

Article from: AAP

A Telstra employee stole more than \$90,000 worth of mobile phones to feed his drinking and gambling addiction, a court has been told.

Luke Nicholas Buckley, 30, was today jailed for three years and nine months in the Brisbane District Court after pleading guilty to one count of fraud with a circumstance of aggravation.

The sentence will be suspended after 15 months.

The court was told Buckley had been employed with Telstra as a sales consultant in late 2005.

Desperate to feed his addiction, Buckley hatched a plan that would allow him to steal mobile phones from the telecommunications provider, which he then either sold or gave away.

Posing as one of his larger clients, Buckley would make bulk orders for mobile phones through Telstra.

Listing his own office as the delivery address, he would then wait for the phones to arrive before immediately cancelling the order to prevent the real client from being billed.

Over a four-month period, Buckley made 22 fraudulent transactions, and received 252 mobile phones and three other telecommunications devices, worth a total of \$93,575.52.

His fraudulent activity was discovered in July 2006 during a routine invoice check, where it was discovered he had authorised the cancellation of an unusually high number of orders.

Judge Kerry O'Brien described Buckley's conduct as "clearly calculating" and said it "did involve some degree of sophistication".

<http://www.news.com.au/business/story/0,23636,22132005-31037,00.html>