

**Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety**Chair: Senator Catryna Bilyk
Deputy Chair: Mr Alex Hawke MP

Cybersafety, it's at your fingertips

Despite around 80 per cent of Australian homes having internet access, Canberra's Centre for Internet Safety believes too few end users take the necessary steps to keep themselves safe online.

Parliament's Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety will hear from the Centre for Internet Safety at the first public hearing for its Inquiry into Cybersafety for Senior Australians on Wednesday 14 March in Canberra.

The Centre for Internet Safety, which is hosted by the Faculty of Law at the University of Canberra, specialises in policy advice and research on cyber threats and security. Directors Nigel Phair and Alastair MacGibbon are both former high ranking officers with the Australian Federal Police, and experts in international cybercrime, internet fraud, safety and security.

The Centre's recent 'snapshot' survey of the online threat environment found that cyber threats are becoming more insidious. However, the centre directors suggest that rather than over emphasising the risks, it is empowerment of the user that matters most.

Committee Chair Senator Catryna Bilyk confirmed that the Committee's inquiry has attracted a lot of interest, "and not just because older people consider themselves the targets of cyber threats."

"Seniors have asserted that online risks affect all age groups, and that the key to online safety is updating your anti-virus software and watching those privacy settings. The Centre for Internet Safety also wants to see accountable industry standards and responsive consumer complaints mechanisms," the Senator said.

The Committee's public hearing on **Wednesday 14 March 2012** will commence at **4.15pm in Committee Room 1R5, Parliament House, Canberra.**

Audio of proceedings in Committee Room 1R5 will be webcast on http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament.

Submissions for the Inquiry into Cybersafety for Senior Australians are now invited by **Friday 23 March 2012**, with extensions available on request.

Further information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference and information on preparing a submission, is available from the Committee's web site <http://www.aph.gov.au/jsc>

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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