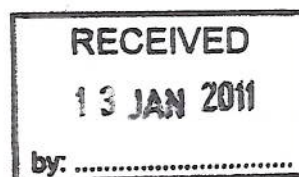


Senator Dana Wortley
Chair
Joint Select Committee on Cyber Safety
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



10 January 2011

Our ref: AIC01969

Dear Dana

SUBMISSION NO. 119
Inquiry into Cyber Safety

Re. Inquiry into cyber-safety

Thank you for your letter dated 30 November 2010, addressed to Dr Peter Hill regarding the Australian Parliament Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety.

Dr Hill has asked that I reply on his behalf.

The Australian Curriculum includes explicit attention to seven general capabilities, one of these is Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competence. In the Australian Curriculum students develop ICT competence as they learn to use ICT effectively and appropriately when investigating, creating and communicating ideas and information at school, at home, at work and in their communities.

Students develop ICT competence when they learn to:

- Investigate with ICT: using ICT to plan and refine information searches; to locate and access different types of data and information and to verify the integrity of data when investigating questions, topics or problems
- Create with ICT: using ICT to generate ideas, plans, processes and products to create solutions to challenges or learning area tasks
- Communicate with ICT: using ICT to communicate ideas and information with others adhering to social protocols appropriate to the communicative context (purpose, audience and technology)
- Operate ICT: applying technical knowledge and skills to use ICT efficiently and to manage data and information when and as needed
- Apply appropriate social and ethical protocols and practices to operate and manage ICT.

This last point in particular relates to the issue of cyber-safety.

To ensure the strong and coherent inclusion of the general capabilities in the Australian Curriculum, ACARA prepared, for each capability, a conceptual statement and learning continuum. These were used to inform curriculum development in K–10 English, mathematics,

science and history. The statements and continua will also inform future phases of curriculum development and may contribute to addressing cyber-safety concerns.

The conceptual statements and continua are being prepared for publication to support teachers and schools who wish to use them to assist the development of their teaching and learning programs. Each document will include:

- the conceptual framework, evidence base and references for the capability
- a continuum of learning, showing development across bands of year levels.

For ICT competence, this work will include descriptions for the end of Years 2, 6 and 10. Further information about general capabilities can be found at:
<http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/GeneralCapabilities>

ACARA would be interested in the findings of the Parliamentary inquiry and how these could be reflected in the Australian Curriculum.

Yours sincerely

Robert Randall
General Manager, Curriculum