

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 7 September 2009

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications

Chair: Ms Belinda Neal MP Deputy Chair: Mrs Kay Hull MP

Internet Industry appears in cyber crime Inquiry

The Internet Industry Association will be one of seven witnesses to appear in a full day of public hearings before the House of Representatives Communications Committee's for its Inquiry into Cyber Crime planned for Friday, 11 September.

Technical experts, industry representatives, and major carrier and internet provider, Telstra, will appear during the morning session. Leading e-security consultant, Mr Alastair MacGibbon, IT vendor Fujitsu and the Australian Payments Clearing Association are scheduled for afternoon.

"To date, there has been an emphasis on making end users more aware of e-security risks and the importance of good online practices. But we must also examine the responsibilities of other players in an environment where information and communication technology are so pervasive." Committee Chair Belinda Neal said.

"All sectors of the internet and IT industry together with commercial businesses that depend on these technologies must play a role in raising security standards, protecting consumers, and cooperating with law enforcement authorities" she said.

"The Committee will examine the opportunities for strengthening online security and how various sectors can work together to strengthen our defences against organised cyber criminals who exploit vulnerable systems and people" Ms Neal said.

The committee is interested in hearing the views of consumers, businesses and experts in the field, as well as federal, state and territory governments.

The Committee's public hearing will be held **Friday**, **11 September 2009 9 - 4 pm in Committee Room 1R4.** The hearing will be audio webcast on: <u>http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/</u>

Further information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference can be obtained from the Committee's web site: <u>www.aph.gov.au/coms</u> or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4601.

The Australian Institute of Criminology publications on cyber crime can be obtained from the Institute's website: <u>http://www.aic.gov.au/</u>

MEDIA CONTACTS: Media comment: please contact Committee Chair Ms Belinda Neal MP on (02) 6277 4971

Background: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2300