

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

Seniors keeping kids safe online

Safer Internet Day 2012

Today is Safer Internet Day and this year's theme is 'Connecting generations and educating each other'.

Parliament's Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety is aware that many older people are not very confident using the internet, and often worry about what their grandchildren are exposed to when online.

The Committee is currently conducting an inquiry into Cybersafety for Senior Australians which aims to uncover the obstacles to internet use for older people, and to find ways to empower them socially and economically by improving online skills and confidence.

The committee chair Senator Catryna Bilyk said that the committee is pleased that Safer Internet Day 2012 recognises the role the extended family can play in educating all, old and young, about the benefits and risks of going online.

"Many older people, particularly those above 65, are unnerved by computers. At the same time they can have invaluable knowledge and skills that could be useful to the community and as well as to their families and friends," Senator Bilyk said. "

"Safer Internet Day brings into focus the committee's objective of empowering seniors and making the online environment safer.

"Senior Australians can play a big part in educating the young if they are confident internet users themselves. Seniors can learn to 'surf the web' from grandchildren and then, in turn, teach the young ones about 'web etiquette' and cybersafety."

The committee is seeking submissions for its inquiry into Cybersafety for Senior Australians by Friday 17 February 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/jscc> or from the secretariat on (02) 6277 4202.

MEDIA CONTACTS:**Media comment: contact the Committee Chair Senator Catryna Bilyk on (02) 6277 3349 or mobile 0419 694 512****Background: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4202**