

**Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety**

Chair: Senator Catryna Bilyk
Deputy Chair: Mr Alex Hawke MP

Committee to discuss efforts to reduce cybercrime

Federal parliament's Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety will discuss how the Australian Crime Commission is supporting Australian law enforcement efforts to reduce the threat and impact of cyber-crime at a public hearing for its inquiry into cybersafety for Senior Australians in Canberra on 15 August.

The Cyber-Safety Committee has heard from the Australian Crime Commission that Australians are targeted by serious and organised criminal networks that exploit the cyber environment to further their criminal activities. The anonymity and international reach of the internet enables criminal networks to target vulnerable populations.

Senior Australians who have a low level of skill or little experience using new technologies may be particularly vulnerable to, and exploited by criminal networks. Seniors who have a high level of trust in companies or entities that are presented professionally, but which are in fact not legitimate, are also vulnerable.

The cyber environment allows even a single criminal entity access to millions of potential victims. Organised criminal networks take advantage of new technologies to expand their reach, commit crimes from a distance, create the appearance of legitimacy and exploit the lack of clear jurisdictional authority.

Committee Chair Senator Catryna Bilyk said "the Australian Crime Commission contributes to gaining a detailed national and global understanding of serious and organised crime, including cybercrime. Such understanding is critical to determining how Australia responds to the increasing threat from cybercrime."

"The committee is looking forward to hearing about the work of the Australian Crime Commission in relation to its efforts to reduce cybercrime" Senator Bilyk said.

The Committee's public hearing on **Wednesday 15 August 2012** will commence at **4.30pm in Committee Room 1R5, Parliament House, Canberra.**

Audio of proceedings in Committee Room 1R5 will be webcast at www.aph.gov.au/live

For further information on the inquiry, or to participate in the committee's **Seniors' Cybersafety Survey**, go to the Committee's web site at <http://www.aph.gov.au/jscc>

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