

**Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety**

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

Committee to discuss research on cybercrime and seniors

Australia's national research and knowledge centre on crime and justice, the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) will discuss their research findings on cybercrime and seniors at a public hearing for the parliamentary inquiry into cyber-safety for senior Australians in Canberra on 22 August.

The AIC told federal parliament's Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety in its submission to the inquiry that senior Australians, along with the rest of the population, face a number of online risks and threats. Although the nature of the offences is the same for older Australians as the general population, the extent and consequences of victimisation may be different for this age group.

The committee has heard from the AIC that as cybercrimes are currently reported to a diverse range of agencies, if at all, it can be difficult to determine the extent of cybercrime in general, and victimisation of older Australians specifically. Furthermore, the AIC says that the age/victimisation relationship is not straightforward, at least in relation to cyber-fraud and cyber-scams.

The fear of victimisation in seniors may mean that they are less likely to take up new technologies which may otherwise offer a number of advantages, such as staying in touch with family and friends, or utilising online services provided by businesses and governments.

Committee Chair, Senator Catryna Bilyk said that throughout the inquiry the committee has heard that seniors may be less comfortable than other Australians with online technologies due to the perceived cyber-safety threat.

"I am concerned that seniors may use avoidance of the internet as a protective barrier against victimisation. Therefore, the committee is looking forward to hearing about the research that the Australian Institute of Criminology has done in relation to cybercrime and seniors," Senator Bilyk said.

The committee's public hearing on **Wednesday 22 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/jsc>

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Media comment and Background: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4202