

National People with Disabilities and Carer Council

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Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety
House of Representatives,
PO Box 6021,
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety

I am writing on behalf of the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council to thank you for your invitation to write a submission to the Inquiry into Cyber-Safety for Senior Australians.

The National People with Disabilities and Carer Council provides advice to the Australian Government on issues affecting people with disability, their families and carers in Australia. The Council is pleased to support the Inquiry into Cyber-Safety for senior Australians.

As the Committee has noted, the internet is now part of the everyday lives of most Australians. Council believes that the fears about privacy and security experienced by senior Australians are closely comparable to those experienced by people with disability. There are senior Australians as well as people with disability within our community who do not have the confidence and capacity to access information and services online, even when such access may improve their quality of life.

The Council is pleased to note that the Committee will investigate the best means to reduce the risks, enhance consumer protection and build online confidence for older internet users. As the issues being investigated closely compare to those experienced by people with disability, Council believes that the outcomes of these investigations will be of relevance to people with disability, including senior Australians with disability.

In relation to education initiatives which are referred to under Term of Reference c), the Council would like to emphasise the need to include older people with disability in any education initiatives in the future.

The Council looks forward to the release of the Inquiry report.

Yours sincerely

Dr Rhonda Galbally AO
Chair

27 February 2012