

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 8 December 2010

Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety

Chair: Senator Dana Wortley Deputy Chair: Alex Hawke MP

VICTORIAN PRIVACY AND CHILD SAFETY COMMISSIONERS TO FRONT CYBER-SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Victorian Privacy Commissioner, Ms Helen Versey, and the Victorian Child Safety Commissioner, Mr Bernie Geary, will be among those giving evidence at a public hearing of the Australian Parliament Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety in Melbourne on Thursday 9 December.

"Technology forms an integral part of the social and educational lives of children and young people. In this world of rapid communication and continually evolving technologies, some young Australians make no distinction between online and offline environments," Committee Chair Senator Dana Wortley said.

"Just as new technologies bring benefits, they also bring some risks. This public hearing provides an opportunity to investigate current progress in addressing the online risks and challenges faced by our children and young people," Senator Wortley added.

Other witnesses include the Stride Foundation, Berry Street, beyondblue, the Australian Council for Education Research and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

The public hearing will take place between 9am and 5pm in Committee Room G.6, State Government Offices, 55 St Andrews Place, Melbourne. Members of the public are welcome to observe the hearing.

The hearing will be audio-webcast live at: http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/

The Committee continues to welcome submissions on the terms of reference and will announce further hearings soon.

Further information on the inquiry is available from the Committee's website, <u>http://www.aph.gov.au/jscc</u> or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4202.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Media comment: Committee Chair Senator Dana Wortley on (08) 82696520 or 0488244817. Background: Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4202