

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 15 March 2011

Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety

Chair: Senator Dana Wortley Deputy Chair: Alex Hawke MP

CYBER-SAFETY COMMITTEE IN BRISBANE

Boystown and Bravehearts will be among those giving evidence at a public hearing of the Australian Parliament Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety in the Premier's Hall at Queensland Parliament House, corner of George & Alice streets, Brisbane, on Thursday, March 17 from 9.30am. to 4.45pm.

The Chair of the Committee, Senator Dana Wortley, said new technologies brought many benefits to Australians of all ages but there were also some inherent risks.

"This public hearing provides an opportunity to hear from relevant organisations as well as to investigate current progress in addressing online risks and challenges - particularly those faced by our children and young people," Senator Wortley said.

"Communicating online is an extremely popular, exciting and simple way for young people to instantly connect with their peers, however, there are potential issues that young people and parents alike must learn to both recognize and address.

"These issues can include cyber-bullying, identity theft and privacy, illegal content and contact from online predators."

Also appearing before the Committee will be the Queensland Teachers Union, Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Australian School Libraries Association, Netbox Blue, Device Connections, Web Management Interactive Technologies, Queensland Secondary Principal's Association, System Administrators Guild of Australia and the Queensland Government.

The public hearing on Thursday, March 17 will be audio-webcast live at: <u>http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/</u>. The Committee continues to welcome submissions on all 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