Question No: 576

Program No. 1.2

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Online safety programmes for schools

Senator Urquhart asked:

Officers of the ACMA advised the hearing that "The predominant part of that program is the Cybersmart website, which has a wealth of material for teachers, young people and parents…. Another key part of that program is the Cybersmart outreach. The ACMA actually goes into the field and provides instruction. We provide teacher and trainee training and we provide direct training for parents, students and teachers."

a. How will the $7.5 million allocated in the Budget for the Department "to provide online safety programmes for schools" interact with these existing programs conducted by the ACMA?

b. Can the Department guarantee that there will be no reduction in the programs conducted by the ACMA and that the announced funding is genuinely additional resources?

c. Can the Department guarantee that there will be no duplication of activity between the Department and the ACMA?

d. Can the Department guarantee there will be no inefficiency introduced by the Department and ACMA both conducting online safety programs for schools?

Answer:

a-d. Once established, the Children's e-Safety Commissioner will administer the $7.5 million to assist schools with accessing certified online safety programmes.

The $7.5 million allocated in the 2014-15 Budget is new funding.

Consistent with the Australian Government's Policy to Enhance Online Safety for Children, and following input received during public consultation undertaken from 22 January to 7 March 2014, the Government is considering how online safety programmes will be consolidated under the Children's e-Safety Commissioner. This will enable greater efficiencies and reduce duplication. The Government will announce the outcomes of the public consultation process in due course.