



**House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Communications**

Chair: Ms Belinda Neal MP  
Deputy Chair: Mrs Kay Hull MP

## **Federal departments to appear before Cyber Crime inquiry**

The federal departments at the forefront of improving e-security in Australia will appear at a House of Representatives Communications Committee's public hearing in Canberra for its inquiry into Cyber Crime on Wednesday, 25 November.

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and the Attorney-General's Department will appear together to answer questions on measures to reduce e-security risks and provide better protection from online identity theft for consumers.

Committee Chair Belinda Neal said, "The public is increasingly moving into an online environment for their everyday banking, shopping and communication. The growth in online consumers and faster Internet access speeds will create a lot of new opportunities for legitimate businesses, but it also provides criminals with easy access to millions of people."

"Cyber criminals are no longer teenage hackers wanting to prove their IT prowess, the combination of organised crime and people with sophisticated IT skills determined to exploit insecure IT technologies is putting us all at risk. We need to ensure that our legal regimes are fit for purpose and able to respond to the ingenuity of online thieves. Consumers need easy ways to report malicious conduct, and quick, cheap and easy ways of disinfecting their home PC."

"The Committee is keen to hear from Departments about the latest developments in e-security policy, and how all stakeholders can play their part in making the online environment safer for everyone," she said.

The Committee's public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, 25 November 2009, 12.30 pm to 2 pm in Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra**. The hearing will be audio webcast on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Further information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference can be obtained from the Committee's web site: [www.aph.gov.au/coms](http://www.aph.gov.au/coms) or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4601.

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

**Media comment: please contact Committee Chair Ms Belinda Neal MP on (02) 6277 4971**

**Background: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2300**