

**Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety**Chair: Senator Dana Wortley  
Deputy Chair: Alex Hawke MP

## Parents, teachers and psychology experts to have their say at cyber-safety inquiry

Parents groups, teachers and experts in the psychology of cyber-bullying will discuss how the internet is being used against young people at a federal parliamentary roundtable hearing at the Commonwealth Parliament Offices, Sydney, on Wednesday 30 June.

The NSW Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations and the Australian Parents Council will represent parents, while teachers will be represented by the Australian Education Union and the Independent Education Union. Social researcher Dr Marilyn Campbell of Queensland University of Technology, and psychologist Dr Helen McGrath will also attend.

“Children and young people are fantastic at embracing and using new technologies, but they still need guidance and supervision to ensure that they remain safe – especially online,” Committee Chair Senator Dana Wortley said.

“Children and young people reap many benefits from the Internet but are also faced with a range of pitfalls, including cyber-bullying, the posting of personal information, and exposure to explicit images, such as extreme pornography or violence.

“It is clear that parents and teachers are at the forefront of dealing with the effects of these problems. We must ensure that they are well equipped to provide advice, assistance and protection as our children and young people continue to learn and explore online.”

The Committee is taking initial evidence from parent and teacher representatives this week, and will announce further hearings soon.

The public roundtable hearing will be held on Wednesday 30 June between 10.00am - 2.00pm in Conference Room A, Commonwealth Parliament Offices, Level 8, 70 Phillip Street, Sydney. Due to the requirements of the venue, only limited numbers of known guests will be able to observe the hearing. Members of the public wishing to observe the hearing are required to provide their name, organisation (if applicable) and address to the Secretariat by no later than 11.00am on Tuesday 29 June. These details may be emailed to [jssc@aph.gov.au](mailto:jssc@aph.gov.au).

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

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

**MEDIA CONTACTS:****Media comment: Committee Chair Senator Dana Wortley on (08) 82696520 or 0408832638.****Background: Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2300**