

**Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety**Chair: Senator Catryna Bilyk  
Deputy Chair: Mr Alex Hawke MP

## Regular internet use lowers seniors' cyber-risk

The Parliament's Cyber-Safety Committee will discuss why vulnerability to cyber-risks may have less to do with age and more to do with experience at the next public hearing of its inquiry into Cybersafety for Senior Australians in Canberra on 12 September.

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy has told the committee that the susceptibility of an individual to a specific online risk is related less to the individual's age than to their behaviour when confronted with the risk.

Research indicates that those seniors who are regular users of the internet are no less confident in their abilities to protect themselves online than users in other age groups.

However statistics show seniors are overrepresented in the percentage of Australians who are either light or non-users of the internet, meaning seniors as a group may be less likely to have the knowledge and confidence to deal with those risks.

Committee Chair Senator Catryna Bilyk said it is vital that everyone online has the knowledge and skills to be able to protect themselves from cyber-risks.

"The committee is looking forward to hearing about the role that the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy is playing in this regard," Senator Bilyk said.

The Department will discuss its work in supporting consumer information and research, and collaborating with industry to encourage solutions to consumer cybersafety and security issues.

Senator Bilyk also noted that a public survey initiated by the committee has attracted significant interest and is still open.

"I encourage senior Australians to complete the survey, either online or in hardcopy which can be posted or faxed to the committee. The survey takes about ten minutes and is anonymous," Senator Bilyk said. The survey can be accessed at: <https://www.surveymk.com/s/cybersafety-seniors>

The committee's public hearing on **Wednesday 12 September 2012** will commence at **4.30pm** in **Committee Room 1R5, Parliament House, Canberra.**

Audio of proceedings in Committee Room 1R5 will be webcast on [http://www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

Further information on the inquiry is available from the committee's web site <http://www.aph.gov.au/jsc>

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

**Media comment: contact Scott Faulkner in the office of the Committee Chair Senator Catryna Bilyk on (02) 6277 3349 or mobile 0409 516 680**

**Background: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4202**