

**Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety**

Chair: Senator Catryna Bilyk  
Deputy Chair: Mr Alex Hawke MP

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**Senior Australians need appropriate cyber-safety education**

Tomorrow Joanne Lambie, the managing director and owner of Stay in Touch Pty Ltd, will discuss with a parliamentary inquiry into cyber-safety for senior Australians how her business helps seniors and people over 50 with a range of services so that they can get online and remain cyber-safe.

In her submission to the inquiry, Ms Lambie told federal parliament's Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety that in her experience there are many seniors who are totally exposed and at risk to cyber-threats due to a complete lack of awareness and education about cyber-safety.

Ms Lambie has found that seniors who are keen to embrace technology often feel "stupid" asking for help. They also may feel they are burdening busy children and grandchildren with their questions about technology. If they do ask their family for help, often family cannot teach them because they speak too quickly or assume a certain level of knowledge and get easily frustrated with the seniors. It is therefore essential that seniors can access cyber-safety education which is taught by people with patience and who have experience teaching seniors.

The committee will also hear from Dr Cassandra Cross who is a Churchill Fellow and lecturer at the Queensland University of Technology. Dr Cross told the committee in her submission that while with the Queensland Police Service she conducted extensive research into online fraud victimisation, particularly as it relates to seniors.

Dr Cross notes that seniors are not the only demographic who are vulnerable to security threats from the internet, anyone can be a victim if targeted in the right way, but seniors are attractive targets for criminals because they generally own their assets and have access to superannuation and life savings.

Committee chair Senator Catryna Bilyk said "the committee is looking forward to hearing from both Ms Lambie and Dr Cross as both will be bringing perspectives about cyber-safety for seniors which are different from those already heard by the committee".

The committee's public hearing on **Wednesday 6 February 2013** will commence at **4.30pm** in **Committee Room 1R5, Parliament House, Canberra**.

Audio of proceedings in Committee Room 1R5 will be webcast at [www.aph.gov.au/live](http://www.aph.gov.au/live).

For further information about the inquiry please go to the committee's web site at <http://www.aph.gov.au/jsc>.

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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