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Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety

Private ██████████ Submission by a practicing High School Science Teacher
to the Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety

June 2010

████████████████████ I am High School Science teacher. I have a scientific computing background and introduced automation at the Australian Photonics CRC and later Photonic manufacturing. When I changed career in 2006 I also transferred substantial technical and information technology knowhow. I have used, supported and analysed a large number of Educational software platforms whilst observing and developing an understanding of the Education sector's culture and mode of operation. Cyber- Safety is the number one issue when looking at design and process. I have been careful not to disrupt, but to understand the existing status and frameworks.

The issue I address is: "*What I believe the Government could do to enable Australia as a whole to access the efficiency and social authenticity of the internet while the community has a cohesive and safe interaction.*"

I make this as a Private and ██████████ submission, and make no representation that these are the opinions or views of any Education Body.

Contact:

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Dear Committee Members,

Working face-to-face in education I have developed a strategic wish list:

	Title	Benefit	Situation	Action	Terms of Reference
1	Digital Song line Project	Immersive and authentic Indigenous culture, visually stunning: Healthy alternative engagement	In hibernation since 2008	Use problem solving skills of government to negotiate barriers	(a) 1. the online environment in which Australian children currently engage, including key physical points of access (schools, libraries, internet cafes, homes, mobiles) and stakeholders controlling or able to influence that engagement (governments, parents, teachers, traders, internet service providers, content service providers); - relevance indigenous content
2	Classification scheme (AAA+ to F-) for technologies: <i>Moodle, Quest Atlantis, Blogs, Lessonlookup</i> #	Coherent way to identify and manage a large number of evolving products opportunities and threats	Each jurisdiction looks at each solution in isolation	Fund stakeholders to develop a system	ii. the nature, prevalence, implications of and level of risk associated with cyber-safety threats, such as: ... and iv. ways to support schools to change their culture to reduce the incidence and harmful effects of cyber-bullying including by....
3	Small Federal Agency be established	By coordinating Internet solutions we can get a safer more efficient process. Getting the schools to publish newsletters on the My School site. Having social support, teacher instruction, and student support through distinct optimized channels	Fragmented approach, we are not discriminating and focusing generic information into open channels and high risk information into protected channels.	Set it up	vii. analysing information on achieving and continuing world's best practice safeguards; viii. the merit of establishing an Online Ombudsman to investigate, advocate and act on cyber-safety issues; (this would provide a framework for the OO to work from)

Moodle, Quest Atlantis, and Blogs are interactive mainstream eLearning activities engaged in by most schools. [lessonlookup](#) is a lesson publishing tool containing lesson sequences developed by [REDACTED] based on access to available policies, and with a strategic aim of increasing the quality and access to teaching. A classification scheme would allow developers to link and guide innovations with established technologies.

Submission Item One: “Digital Song Line Project”

I am an interested observer only in this project. I was involved in informal discussions with UTS Indigenous Affairs about making the Cyber interface more sensitive to the Indigenous Culture. I discovered this Project when it was being promoted by its founder Brett Leavy in 2008. He has tried exhaustively to introduce the concept, and I have tried to promote the idea in [REDACTED]. The students walk around pre 1788 Australia, interact with Ingenious Avatars, gather bush tucker, and get trained to observe animals and observe traditional boundaries that then make understanding of land rights more natural. In my position I was unable to approach government but was able to analyse organizational procedures that inhibited the emergence of positive content that would promote positive community engagement e-learning .

My request is that a politician takes a positive mind to this Indigenous aspiration.

Submission Item Two: “AAA+ to F- rating system”.

There is a premium Gaming Environment called “Quest Atlantis” that effectively monitors the students and develops their cyber safety. It appears to have every aspect covered. I would rate this nominally AA+ as third parties at the University of Indiana, promptly inform teachers of issues such as students revealing personal information online. “Moodle” I would rate as A+ as the teacher monitors online communication, however there are gaps.

In Education, I rate non interactive technologies that at AAA. I refer to “Celestia” which allow students to fly around a Scientifically authentic Universe. Another example is using Google Maps links to enrich the text of students work.

I publish my lessons, non interactive with no student information using a very simple Web 2.0 interface. Rating it in this forum could be seen as self serving, however, having a rating system allows the new technologies to efficiently placed, discussed and appropriately used. It also gives a teacher like myself clear boundaries and possibilities of managing innovation.

My request is that we make a start on classification

Submission Item Three “National Model of ICT”.

In factories information systems flow so that Quality Data was feedback, Compliance data stayed with the product, and Marketing information was published. All of these flows have different, security risks, time needs, and Physical Data management protocols.

Currently we have a lot of ad hoc solutions. Schools are publishing Community information on Moodle, which is an academic noticeboard, when they could publish linked to the my school website. This would allow information savvy parents to compare practices at different schools.

Moodle is used to post teacher generated content related to approaches to the syllabus. If this is published on a creative commons, every teacher can then teach every student in Australia creating a national staff room.

When the ICT system is properly designed, then it becomes efficient to high speed scan student work samples and can be corrected on touch screens by a variety of teachers.

Departments should have a central student and school activity/image upload site, where the date, time, and students are tagged. This means drives at school will have less vulnerable information on it, and process of image control can be effectively managed.

Every time Cyber resources are not used efficiently in a focused way, safety mechanisms are less effective. Content that may not need to be in a communication means increases the clutter. With no system overview there is real variability on how these things are approached, and every solution is seen as additional cost.

New Cyber threats can be managed in a coherent way. For instance, a few years ago Moodle was hacked by a Russian Group. There was a rapid global response but information of this vulnerability is not analysed in respect to the total environment in Australia. Moodle can be used to limit students bringing inappropriate software and content to school.

A final note, that "Engrade" is being widely adopted by the Catholic system, my understanding is a by a majority of schools in the next years. Run by benefactors in Silicon Valley it allows direct web reporting of students' progress to their families.

This site reveals the evolution of the Cyber tools

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20100516153542AAnNjFC>

I request that the Committee recommend that a system analysis study be made, so properly rated solutions can be used in the most efficient way.

If I can be of further assistance to the committee, I would be glad to help. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], but I can direct you to experts in the fields. It is a really good thing to see government helping in this area!