



**House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Communications**

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

Australian Tax Office before Cyber Crime Inquiry

The Australian Tax Office will appear at a House of Representatives Communications Committee's public hearing for its Inquiry into Cyber Crime on Wednesday, 16 September.

The Tax Office will appear and answer questions about the impact of cyber crime on the organisation. The Committee will hear about current and future initiatives to protect the integrity of the taxation system and educate taxpayers on protecting their sensitive personal information.

Committee Chair Belinda Neal said cyber criminals are targeting tax payers.

"These criminals are phishing for the personal information of tax payers through scam emails and sophisticated look-alike websites intended to trick people into giving out their tax file numbers and other personal information," Ms Neal said.

"One such website was found to be hosted in the Ukraine. The public must be made aware of these fraudulent websites.

"It is imperative that Australia stay on top of e-security risks and the potential growth of cyber crime if we are to get increased efficiency in the delivery of government services.

"The Australian Taxation Office holds large volumes of information that would be high value to a cyber criminal," Ms Neal said.

The Committee's public hearing will be held **Wednesday, 16 September 2009, 12.30 pm to 2 pm in Committee Room 1R4**. 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 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