25th February 2011

Chair
House of Representatives Stranding Committee on
Infrastructure and Communications
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

E-Mail

Dear Committee Chair Secretary,

NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO THE ROLE AND POTENTIAL OF THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK.

Dear Sharon,

We thought that it would be of value to your committee and to our school to find out and express the views of Young People at our school in regards to how we use and enjoy the internet today and what are the main areas of need are, and what is likely to be of use to us in the future.

We only found out about this opportunity to express our opinions five days ago by a youth worker who works at our school. His main role is to support Young People who have experienced the 2009 Victorian bush fires, but he does other work as well.

Our principal and assistant principals were hugely supportive for us to be able to get our whole school involved in such a short time frame. It was fun but a fair bit of pressure on top of our other school commitments.

We, the organizing group designed, circulated and collated a survey to the whole student body. The survey has 8 topic areas with 53 multiple choice options within those 8 topics and an extra comment section.

Due to the short time fame we managed to canvas 380 students out of approx 700 students at our school as we ran out of time. The people who responded were a good representation from all year levels 7 though to 12 and they were all keen to get involved.
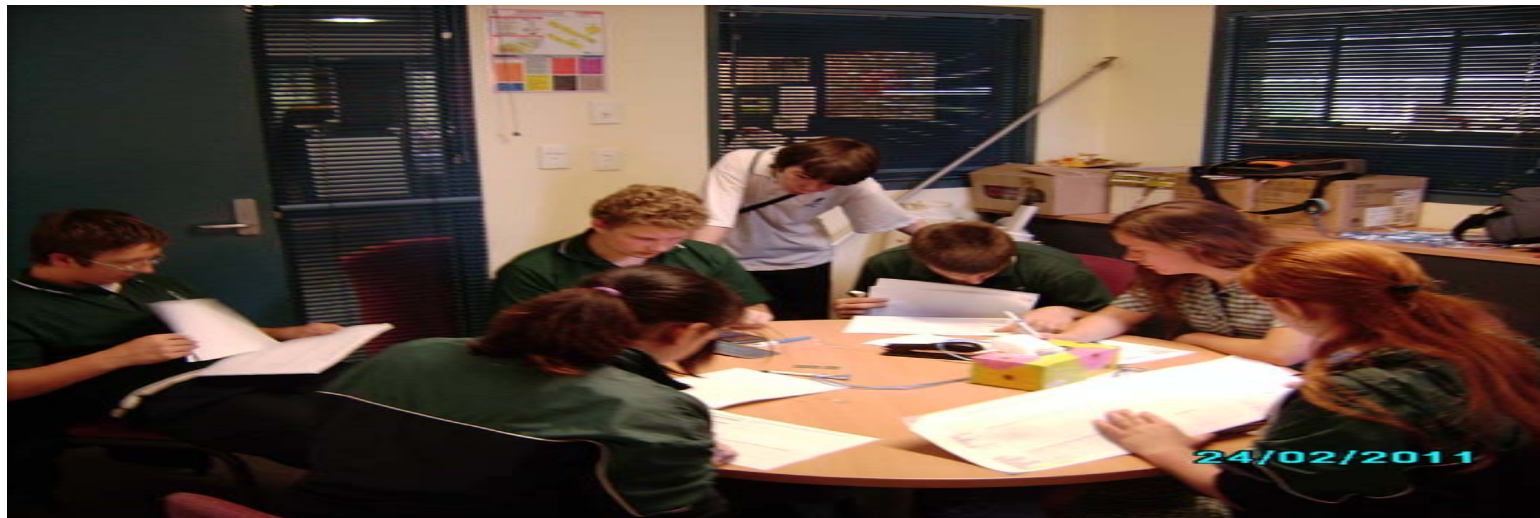
We believe the following information will be of use to your inquiry and we hope we are not the only Young People who have responded to this opportunity.

If you need any further information you can contact us through out principal – Greg Williams on

Thank you–Shane Stephens - Ashleigh Gentles – Daniel Busch – Kelsey Sheldon – Georgia Andrews – Bruce Robb – Alex Klammer, Ben Parker, Tom Burton, Jessica Trezise – Taylor Sinclare – Mathew Temby – Olivia Sherman.

Dear Sharon and committee, below is two anecdotal summary statements about the responses in this survey and an accurate result in percentages and numbers as to what Young People at out school use and think of in relation to the internet.

- Entertainment, social communication and researching information were stand out results in our survey. The benefits of feeling positive about 'your self' by communicating with friends and family are stated as a major benefit of the internet. Speeding this communication up and improving visual communication will be a huge benefit in the future.

- Knowledge about community disasters like bush fires is also noted as a huge need. Please note the result around bush fires at 36% represents approximately 90% of all young people living in bushfire effected/ prone areas, wanting to use the internet to protect their future safety and the safety of family and friends.

Results to the question - What do you use the internet for?–

A Diamond Valley College Survey of 380 students ranging from year 7 though to 12, February 2011

ENTERTAINMENT	RESULT	PERCENTAGE
Sport	150	40%
Games	249	66%
Photography	195	51%
Comedy	147	39%
Music	333	88%
Art	99	26%
Movies	276	72%
Other - Please describe		
• Pornography	33	9%

INFORMATION	RESULTS	PERCENTAGE
Weather	279	73%
Study/ Research -general	282	74%
Schooling from home	117	31%
How to – do stuff	189	50%
Alcohol etc.	84	22%
Personal health information	87	23%
Mental health information	66	17%
Relationships	60	16%
Driving	102	27%

PERSONAL	RESULTS	PERCENTAGE
Chat sites	285	75%
Finding love	60	16%
Support groups	48	13%
Emotional help	54	14%
Physical help	48	13%

Medical help	51	13%

EMERGENCY SERVICES	RESULTS	PERCENTAGE
Bushfire information	135	36%
Floods info	48	13%
Cyclone info	38	10%
Police & the law info	38	10%
Ambulance info	25	7%

COMMUNICATION	RESULTS	PERCENTAGE
E-mail	285	75%
Skype- ie video phone calls	150	40%
Facebook	378	99.47368%
MSN	165	43%
Yahoo	81	21%

FINANCES / PURCHASES	RESULT	PERCENTAGE
Paying bills	75	20%
Banking	126	33%
Employment Part time	105	28%
Employment Full time	51	13%
Buying cars & or research	120	32%
Buying electrical goods	96	25%
Buying personal goods	168	44%

Results to the question - What are the benefits of the internet?–

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST BENEFITS OF THE INTERNET?	RESULTS	PERCENTAGE
Feel positive about your self when talking to friends	168	44%
Feel great when able to keep in contact with family and friends no matter where they are living.	276	73%
You can form relationships	129	40%
You can end relationships	78	21%
You can check health issues before or after going to a doctor.	87	23%
You can research stuff before going out to buy it	240	63%

Results to the question - What are the biggest problems with the internet? –

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS WITH THE INTERNET?	RESULTS	PERCENTAGE
Disagreements due to blocked sites	228	60%
Access to potentially harmful/ offensive/ dangerous sites	123	32%
Cost	153	40%
Viruses	231	61%
Not available in all areas	117	31%
Feel harassed or creates enemies	60	16%
Misunderstanding get blow out of proportion and not settled face to face.	153	40%

Extra added comments section: *Italic section is just for fun.*

- Speed is a problem

- Young People surveying the opinions of Young People and forwarding it to government is a good idea

- *I love face book – --me too -- Its brilliant*

- I just came to say hello –

- *I want you to take over control -- I'm Mr Bean -- I love chicken Yum Yum Yum*

- Pornography

- Don't block face book don't block gamming sites

- Face book game sites seem to cause viruses and create problems at home when computers get infected.

- Money from the NBN should go to hospitals

- I like the internet

You comments will be collated and sent to the Federal Government – House Of Representatives Standing Committee On Infrastructure and Communication – Inquiry Into The National Broadband Network. As Chaired By Sharon Bird