



MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 16 March 2010

**House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Communications**

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

Queensland Police to discuss Nigerian email scams with Cyber Crime Inquiry

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) will tell a federal parliamentary inquiry into Cyber Crime about its investigations of the so-called 'Nigerian 419 scams' in Canberra tomorrow (17 March).

Detective Superintendent Brian Hay will answer questions from the House of Representatives Communications Committee on Queensland's recent initiatives to improve the reporting and investigation of online fraud and other types of cyber crime.

Committee Chair Belinda Neal said, "Queensland has taken some important steps in the reporting and investigation of cyber crime. The Committee is especially interested in Queensland's work with Nigerian and Ghana authorities to investigate the 'Nigerian 419 scams'".

"Most people are quite trusting and vulnerable to online scams designed to trick consumers out of their money for non-existent products or services, sometimes stripping people of their entire savings. Romance scams have also become more prevalent, exploiting people's genuine desire for meaningful relationships. The impact of these types of cyber crime is not just financial but also has devastating emotional consequences."

"It is important that Federal, State and Territory authorities work together to improve reporting and investigative techniques. This also means working with overseas partners to aggregate the intelligence and catch perpetrators, who are often located overseas but are usually serial offenders" she said.

The Committee's public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, 17 March 2010, 12.30 pm to 2 pm in Committee Room 1R4 Parliament House**. 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:

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