

**Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety**

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

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## **Why do some senior Australians limit internet use?**

Michael O'Neill, from National Seniors Australia, will discuss why some seniors either don't use the internet at all or are limiting the ways in which they use it, at a public hearing for the parliamentary inquiry into cyber-safety for senior Australians in Canberra on 31 October.

National Seniors Australia told federal parliament's Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety in its submission that research and feedback from its members indicate that some older Australians have high levels of concern about cyber-safety.

Additional support is needed to encourage more senior Australians to use the internet, to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to do so safely and with confidence, according to National Seniors Australia.

The Committee will also hear from Mrs Joyce Sheasby from the University of the Third Age in Toowoomba. Mrs Sheasby told the Committee in her submission that education is the most pressing need to be addressed in order to get seniors safely on-line.

As a volunteer teaching computer courses to seniors, Mrs Sheasby has first-hand experience of the concerns that seniors have when they first go on-line. She will discuss with the committee how education can give seniors the confidence and skills they need to enter the cyberworld.

Committee Chair, Senator Catryna Bilyk said that the committee has taken a lot of evidence during the course of this inquiry about the importance of seniors having access to appropriate education so they can confidently start using the internet.

"The Committee is looking forward to hearing from both witnesses about concerns that some seniors have about going on-line and how they can be helped to overcome those concerns" Senator Bilyk said.

The committee's public hearing on **Wednesday 31 October 2012** 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 on the inquiry, or to participate in the committee's **Seniors' Cybersafety Survey**, go to the committee's web site at <http://www.aph.gov.au/jsc>.

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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