

**The House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Communications  
INQUIRY INTO CYBER CRIME**

**Additional information:**

**Broadband for Seniors**

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008 the PC Users Group (ACT) was the venue chosen for the launch of *Broadband for Seniors* which will establish up to 2,000 free internet kiosks in community centres and clubs used by seniors throughout Australia. Jenny Macklin MP - Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and Annette Ellis MP, Member for Canberra announced that the Australian Government has committed \$15 million over three years, to provide computer hardware and software, broadband service and training.

The kiosks, which will provide computers, internet connections and training, will be available to both pensioners and self-funded retirees. Recent statistics indicate that only one in five Australians over the age of 65 are currently using the Internet and this *National Broadband for Seniors* initiative aims at making it easier for seniors to get online.

NEC Australia won the contract to provide the technology, nationwide network and management for the project. They will do this as part of a consortium which includes Adult Learning Australia, the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association and U3A Online.

David Cooke, Group Manager, NEC Australia said: "The background research that we have done suggests that many seniors across Australia who do have access to the internet and online courses have been able to live fuller and more rewarding lives."

Nan Bosler, OAM, President ASCCA said: "It has been shown that older Australians are disadvantaged if they can't use a computer and the internet. The Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association is thrilled to be a part of the consortium to help to empower seniors through this valuable Government initiative. Establishment of these kiosks will provide the opportunity for many more Australian seniors to learn how to use modern communication skills."

The first stage of the project is to select appropriate sites within communities to locate the kiosks. NEC is calling on local community centres, organisations that are currently running computer services for seniors and anyone else that is interested in hosting kiosks, to register their interest, subject to certain criteria, at the following website: <http://www.necseniors.net.au> or via phone: 1300 795 897.

The three training manuals written by ASCCA can be downloaded from the ASCCA website, <http://www.ascca.org.au/BroadbandSeniors.html> The material written by the Australian Federal Police on Internet Safety can be found on pages 20 & 21 in *Your Resource Kit*. These manuals are also available from the home page of <http://www.necseniors.net.au>

The first kiosk was opened in September 2009 in Melbourne. See press release <http://www.ascca.org.au/BroadbandPressRelease3Sept09.pdf>

As at 17 November 2009 "250 kiosks now live or within days, over 2200 online training courses completed based on ASCCA's training material – very positive feedback from kiosks." David Cooke NEC

### **Distribution of ASCCA Clubs**

As at 18 November 2009 ASCCA has 144 financial clubs.

86 in urban areas (12 in capital cities; 50 in metropolitan developed areas and 24 located on the outskirts of the greater Sydney area)

30 in regional areas

28 in rural areas

It is pleasing to see the number of clubs in rural areas increasing over the last two years.

Nan Bosler, OAM BEd MLGMgnt  
President,  
Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association

**ASCCA** Working for Seniors