



CYBER-SAFETY COMMITTEE LAUNCHES ONLINE SURVEYS OF AUSTRALIAN YOUTH

The Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety will today launch two online surveys to enable young internet users to share their online experiences, concerns and knowledge.

The Chair of the Committee, Senator Dana Wortley, is asking schools to encourage student participation in the surveys which will provide feedback for the Committee.

Senator Wortley will launch the surveys to coincide with the official National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence which highlights the role of the bystander and how teachers can help manage cyber-bullying in Australian schools.

There are two surveys – one for younger children up to age 12 and the second for 13-18 year olds – and both are anonymous and easy to complete. The surveys, which should be completed by Wednesday April 27, can be accessed at www.aph.gov.au/cybersafety.

Senator Wortley said the Cyber-Safety Committee continues to hear evidence from a wide range of experts and organisations and now, these survey results as well as school forums organised by the Committee, mean the voices of young internet users will be heard.

“Young people are avid and enthusiastic users of social networking sites, SMS and online gaming sites. They are highly connected to their peers through the internet and new technology and can provide the Committee with invaluable firsthand knowledge,” Senator Wortley said.

“I encourage young Australians to fill out the survey, have their say on the development of safer online environments and share their knowledge of the online world, including any experiences of cyber-bullying, stalking, identity theft and breaches of privacy.”

Further information on the inquiry is available from the Committee’s website, <http://www.aph.gov.au/jsc> or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4202.

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Background: Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4202