

## SUBMISSION No. 27



### ASSOCIATION OF PRINCIPALS OF CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

---

24 June 2010

The Secretary  
Joint Select Committee on Cyber Safety  
R1-109  
Parliament House  
PO Box 6021  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

The Association of Principals of Catholic Secondary Schools (APCSS), South Australia, welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the Australian Parliament's Joint Select Committee on Cyber Safety.

The online environment poses significant educational benefits, however, risks exist that clearly need to be better managed in the interest of protecting the welfare of children. In particular, we would like to comment on point a(vi), as expressed in the terms of reference: "Ways to support schools to change their culture to reduce the incidence of harmful effects of cyber bullying."

- It would be helpful, in our view, for relevant authorities to develop high quality online regularly updated educational resources for parents and teachers to access, so to keep pace with the ongoing rapid changes that are part of the online environment. Such resources could be used annually, bi-annually, or as frequently as needed, in homes and schools as part of the important ongoing teacher and parent education process.
- The provision of educational financial and expert resources for schools or school systems to deliver vital parent workshops each year would be important.
- The provision of easier reporting mechanisms for schools and homes (online reporting) when schools, parents or students have legal, moral or welfare concerns about particular cyber sites, individual cyber use, and anti-social or illegal online behaviours. This would need to be supported by appropriate legislative powers and timely response mechanisms.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Hamilton  
Chair, APCSS

<b>Chairperson:</b>	<i>Mrs Cheryl Hamilton (Loreto College, 316 Portrush Road, Marryatville SA 5068) Tel: 08-83344200: Fax: 08-83643153: Email: <a href="mailto:cheryl.hamilton@loreto.sa.edu.au">cheryl.hamilton@loreto.sa.edu.au</a></i>
<b>Deputy Chair:</b>	<i>Mr Phil Lewis, Gleeson College, Golden Grove SA 5125</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<i>Mr Pat Terminello, Mary MacKillop College, Kensington SA 5068</i>
<b>CaSPA Rep:</b>	<i>Mrs Jane Iwanowitsch, Mt Carmel College, Rosewater SA 5013.</i>
<b>Exec Officer:</b>	<i>Mr Lou Flint. <a href="mailto:LFlint@cabra.catholic.edu.au">LFlint@cabra.catholic.edu.au</a></i>