

**Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety**Chair: Senator Dana Wortley
Deputy Chair: Alex Hawke MP

FACEBOOK, YOUTH COUNCIL AND OTHER EXPERTS TO FRONT CYBER-SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, Principals Australia, Facebook's Chief Privacy Adviser and leading researchers in cyber-safety will give evidence at the Joint Select Committee on Cyber-safety's first round-table forum at Parliament House, Melbourne, on Friday 11 June.

US public policy expert and academic Mozelle W Thompson will appear on behalf of Facebook, along with representatives from the Allannah and Madeline Foundation, the Australian Federal Police and the Internet Industry Association. Leading cyber-safety researchers Dr Barbara Spears of the University of South Australia and Dr Julian Dooley of Western Australia's Edith Cowan University will also give evidence.

'The internet is an exciting place for children and young people – but we need to be alert to the risks as well as the benefits of the online world', Committee Chair Senator Dana Wortley said.

'Kids are clearly enthusiastic users of mobile phones and SMS to contact their friends and access the web. We need to understand the way young people use these expanding technologies, and ensure they can enjoy them in a safe and positive way', Senator Wortley added.

'Cyber-bullying is an important cyber-safety issue that parents can find difficult to detect. We all know the serious impacts these behaviours can potentially have on children. Concerns have also been raised that some young people post personal information and images online that could come back to haunt them in the future. The Committee is taking initial evidence on these issues this week, and will announce further hearings soon.'

The public roundtable hearing will be held on Friday 11 June between 10.00a.m. and 2.00p.m. in the Legislative Council Committee Room, Parliament House of Victoria, Spring Street, Melbourne. Members of the public are welcome to observe the hearing from the public gallery. The hearing will be audio-webcast live at: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

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.

MEDIA CONTACTS:**Media comment: Committee Chair Senator Dana Wortley on (08) 82696520 or 0408832638.****Background: Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2300**