



CYBER-SAFETY COMMITTEE IN ADELAIDE

Professor Phillip Slee and Dr Barbara Spears, representing the Australian University Cyberbullying Research Alliance, and Sonya Ryan, Director of the Carly Ryan Foundation, will appear before the Australian Parliament's Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety in Adelaide tomorrow (Thursday, February 3).

The public hearing will be held in the **Prince Alfred Room, Adelaide Town Hall, 128 King William Street**, between **10.30 am** and **4.30pm**. Media and general public are welcome to attend.

The Chair of the Committee, Senator Dana Wortley, said that technology forms an integral part of the social and educational lives of children and young people. In this world of rapid communication and continually evolving technologies, some young Australians make no distinction between online and offline environments.

Young people use multiple platforms including gaming consoles, chat rooms, SMS and social networking sites to communicate with their peers.

"Just as new technologies bring benefits, they also bring some risks. This public hearing provides an opportunity to investigate current progress in addressing the online risks and challenges faced by our children and young people," Senator Wortley added.

Also giving evidence will be **Flinders University Associate Professor Karen Vered**, an expert in digital media and kids' media cultures, **the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia, the Australian Council on Children and the Media, the South Australian Office for Youth, the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools, the Association of Principals of Catholic Secondary Schools, FamilyVoice Australia** and **the Department of Education and Children's Services**.

Senator Wortley said "Cyber-safety has emerged as an important issue for governments, parents, schools and the wider community and the Joint Select Committee on Cyber Safety provides the opportunity for experts and organisations to contribute."

The hearing will be audio-webcast live at: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

The Committee continues to welcome submissions on all the terms of reference and will announce further hearings soon. Further information on the inquiry is available from the Committee's website, <http://www.aph.gov.au/jscc> or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4202.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Media comment: Committee Chair Senator Dana Wortley on (08) 82696520 or 0422916496.

Background: Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4202