



## **Media Release – Now is the time for everyone to work together to keep our kids safe online.**

09 July 2010

*The Safer Internet Group welcomes the government's new open approach to cyber safety. Now is the time for everyone to work together to keep Australian families safe online.*

The Safer Internet Group (SIG) welcomes the government's announcement today of a new, open approach to cyber safety.

The Government has announced a comprehensive suite of transparency and accountability measures to accompany the introduction of interim voluntary ISP filtering of Refused Classification content.

The Government also announced it will recommend a review of the Refused Classification guidelines to the States and Territories and welcomed support from the major Internet Service Providers to block a list of child abuse URLs.

The SIG agrees that Australia needs to take effective action to ensure that Internet users, and particularly children, have a safe experience online, while preserving the benefits of open Internet access for all Australians.

By taking these actions, the government has proved that it is again listening to Australian families' concerns about the mandatory internet filter and has removed a major stumbling block in its efforts to keep Australian families safe online.

Now is the time for everyone to work together to keep Australian families safe online.

This suite of measures is designed to give the public confidence that only the content specified by the legislation is being blocked. The measures include:

- an annual review of the Refused Classification (RC) Content list by an independent expert who will be appointed in consultation with industry;
- clear avenues for appeal of classification decisions;
- that all content identified on the basis of a public complaint be classified by the Classification Board under the National Classification Scheme; and
- that affected parties have the ability to have decisions reviewed by the Classification Review Board;

Three of Australia's largest ISPs have agreed to voluntarily block a list of child abuse URLs compiled and maintained by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) at the ISP level.

Since its creation, SIG has supported all practical measures to make the internet safer.

The Safer Internet Group brings together Australia's leading sponsors of research, outreach and online safety campaigns. These include Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc (ACSSO), Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Google, iiNet, Inspire Foundation, Internet Industry Association (IIA), Internet Society of Australia (ISOC-AU), Internode, System Administrators Guild of Australia (SAGE-AU) and Yahoo!

To find out more about the Safer Internet Group (SIG) please visit our website

<http://www.saferinternetgroup.org>

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