



Media Release – Safer Internet Group (SIG) Submission to Joint Select Committee on Cyber Safety

Thursday, 8 July 2010

The proposed Mandatory Internet Filter will not work to keep Australian children safe online. It's time we started talking about things that work.

Speaking at the Melbourne hearing of the Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety, Safer Internet Group (SIG) spokesperson Sue Hutley stated that the Government's proposed mandatory internet filter will not work to keep Australian children safe online. "It's time we started talking about things that actually work", she said.

Most harmful content online is not shared via the internet but through technologies like peer-to-peer networks, against which the mandatory filter is useless. Cyber-safety threats are complex. We need to target a number of issues to make sure Australian families are safe online.

The mandatory internet filter will only serve to give parents a false sense of security about online safety.

'We welcome the current debate about online safety. In such a dynamic environment more needs to be done to make our online experiences safer', Hutley said.

Our five-point plan for a safer internet addresses online safety in the following ways:

1. More effective education
2. Comprehensive policing of illegal material on the internet
3. User tools that work
4. A new dialogue about internet safety
5. Targeted research of internet risks and opportunities for young people

SIG welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the debate on cyber-safety through the work of the Joint Select Committee.

SIG is looking to work with the Australian government, industry groups, community organisations and law enforcement agencies to promote real cyber safety.

SIG represents Australia's leading sponsors of research, outreach and online safety campaigns. Its members include: The Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc, Australian Library and Information Association, Google, iiNet, Inspire Foundation, Internet Industry Association, Internet Society of Australia, Internode, System Administrators Guild of Australia, and Yahoo!

For more information about the Safer Internet Group please visit our website at www.saferinternetgroup.org

Media contact: Sue Hutley 0412 764 922