



Tips for chatting safely online

The ABA has released a brochure containing safety tips for using Internet chat rooms.

The ability to keep in touch with friends and make new ones is one of the main reasons children and young people will go online over the coming school holidays. This is usually a fun and rewarding experience but, as in the real world, it's not without some risks.

'Chatting online is a great way for children to keep in touch with friends and to meet people from different cultures and backgrounds, but they need to be aware a small number of people they encounter in chat rooms may not be who they say they are, and may have inappropriate reasons for contacting them,' said Professor Flint.

Children should take particular care when arranging to meet in person someone they have been chatting to online. By arranging to meet in a public place during the day and taking a parent or other responsible adult with them, much of the potential danger can be avoided.

Professor Flint also warned that even if children don't intend to meet someone in per-

son, they still need to be careful about revealing personal information such as their phone number, photograph, home address or location of their school. 'We wouldn't usually give this sort of information to a complete stranger, and children shouldn't post their personal details in chat rooms.'

The ABA recommends that parents set rules for their children about using chat rooms, talk to them about who they are chatting with online, and consider using filters that block access to certain chat rooms and/or prevent personal information from being disclosed in a chat room.

'We are not suggesting that young people should be prevented from using chat rooms altogether – these simple, practical steps will help to ensure that children enjoy chat rooms safely,' said Professor Flint. 'If a child does encounter questionable behaviour in a chat room, they should leave the chat room and tell a parent what's happened. If a parent suspects that an adult is engaging in inappropriate activity, they should contact their local police,' he said.



The ABA now has four 'Cybersmart Kids Online' brochures: chatting safely, avoiding spam, selecting a filter and general Internet safety.

For copies of the brochures:

Contact the ABA, tel: (02) 9334 7700, or email: online@aba.gov.au.


For further information:

ABA: www.cybersmartkids.com.au and www.aba.gov.au/internet/
Childnet International: www.childnet-int.org and www.chatdanger.com

New direction for section 40 licences

On 30 October 2002, the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, issued the *Australian Communications Authority (MF NAS Transmitter Licence) Direction No. 1 of 2002*. The Direction directs the Australian Communications Authority to attach a condition to all MF NAS transmitter licences — that is, MF-AM radio licences outside the broadcasting services bands using frequencies 1606.5kHz to 1705kHz. The condition prohibits those licensees from carrying section 40 commercial radio services, unless:

1. the MF NAS transmitter licence was allocated before 6 November 2002 or was renewed on or after 6 November 2002
2. the section 40 licence was allocated before 6 November 2002
3. the service is provided by 6 November 2003 and
4. the location of the MF NAS station is within 10 kilometres of its location at 6 November 2002.

Although the Direction does not permit the delivery of new section 40 licences using 1606.5kHz to 1705kHz, it does not preclude delivery via other means such as satellite or cable. 

New commercial radio licence: non-broadcasting services bands

The ABA has allocated a new commercial radio broadcasting licence to Perfect Income Tax Pty Ltd to cover Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra. The licence is restricted to means of delivery that do not use the broadcasting services bands.

Perfect Income Tax Pty Ltd must commence its service within 12 months of being allocated the licence, or within a

longer period as approved by the ABA.

The ABA allocates non-broadcasting services bands commercial radio licences on application under section 40 of the Broadcasting Services Act. Applicants for a licence must pay an application fee of \$2400.

The holder of a section 40 licence is solely responsible for making arrangements for the delivery of the service. 