



The ABA encourages Australian parents to educate themselves and their children about the risk of online exploitation. The brochure, *Cybersmart Guide*, has tips on general Internet safety, chat safety and filter selection.

# Ways for parents to keep their children safe on the Internet

The ABA has joined with the Australian High Tech Crime Centre and Federal, State and Territory police forces in encouraging Australian parents to educate themselves and their children about the risk of online exploitation.

The ABA's recently released revised brochure, *Cybersmart Guide*, incorporates tips on general Internet safety, chat safety and filter selection and has been endorsed by the Australian High Tech Crime Centre and the Federal, State and Territory police forces.

'Children need to be aware that 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 Mr Tanner.

## Co-regulatory scheme for Internet content

The ABA administers Australia's co-regulatory scheme for Internet content, established under Schedule 5 to the Broadcasting Services Act. As part of the scheme, the ABA provides advice and assistance to families about a range of Internet safety matters, primarily through

its Internet safety web site for families, Cybersmart Kids, and related printed resources.

Because of the vast and global nature of the Internet, awareness and education are essential components of a strategy to manage the potential risks associated with some aspects of the Internet.

The ABA's complaints hotline enables members of the public to report offensive Internet material. Since 1 January 2000, the ABA has investigated more than 2350 complaints about Internet content, reported more than 150 items of Australian-hosted Internet content to Australian police forces and referred more than 1100 items of overseas-hosted Internet content to overseas police forces or hotlines.

The ABA also registers Internet industry codes of practice on Internet content, monitors compliance with the codes, conducts research into Internet use and promotes community awareness on Internet safety.

The ABA works with national and international bodies to raise awareness of Internet safety issues and provide parents with information that helps them supervise their children's

Internet usage. The ABA works closely with the police to educate parents and children about Internet safety.

Further information about the ABA's role in relation to the Internet is available on our web site. A complementary range of brochures, available online and in hard copy, includes:

- *Cybersmart Guide*
- *Tips To Help Your Kids Make The Most of The Internet – Safely!*
- *Tips For Families On Using Filters For Internet Safety*
- *Tips To Help You Chat Safely*
- *Tips For Dealing With Spam.*



### Advice for parents at the Sydney International Children's festival [www.kidsuniverse.net.au/](http://www.kidsuniverse.net.au/)



The ABA's Mike Barnard (above, left) and Lisa Harrison (above, right) demonstrating the ABA's pamphlets and the cybersmart web site at the festival.

Staff of the ABA's Content Assessment section attended the Sydney International Children's Festival in Sydney from 26 – 29 September. The festival was organised by the Scholastic Group and aimed at children aged under 14. It provided an excellent opportunity for the ABA to speak to many families about ways to keep kids safe on the Internet. The ABA's Internet safety site ([www.cybersmartkids.com.au](http://www.cybersmartkids.com.au)) and the complementary range of brochures attracted a great deal of interest. The ABA wishes to thank the NSW Police Child Protection Squad, for inviting the ABA to share its exhibition space.