



South Australian children play Net Detectives

More than 130 school children from South Australia participated in the ABA's fourth Net Detectives activity on 24 November. Forty teams played in the activity, including teams from North Adelaide Primary, St Agnes Primary, St Agnes; St Joseph's Primary, Hectorville; St Martins Catholic Primary, Greenacre; and Woodcroft College, Morphett Vale.

'Net Detectives is an exciting and innovative online role-play game which helps to teach children key Internet safety messages, especially those relating to Internet chat rooms,' said Ms Maddock. 'It provides a safe environment where children learn to identify the dangers of meeting people who may not be all they say they are.'

The children played the role of Mr Saunders, a deputy principal who learnt that one of his students, Sarah, appeared to be being bullied. Guided by a series of clues, children worked in teams to solve the mystery of what was worrying Sarah, and why. Along the way they learnt some important tips for chatting safely online.

The ABA, by agreement with Childnet International has adapted the activity for use in Australian schools, as part of its program of activities to educate the community about Internet safety. The activity is managed by a group of Internet safety experts, including law enforcement and Internet industry representatives, who will deliver clues and respond to questions from the virtual 'control room'.

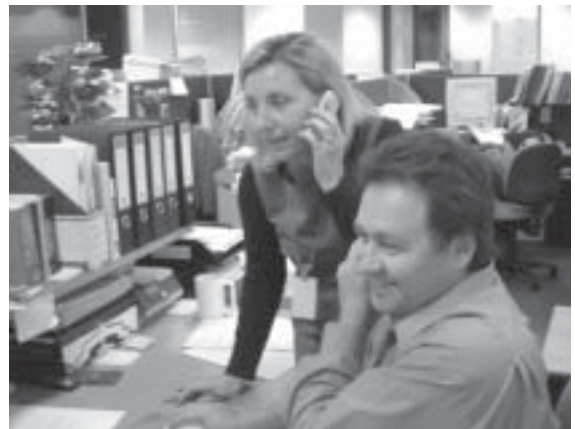
The inaugural Australian launch of Net Detectives in Australia took place on 25 September 2003. The ABA is hoping to conduct more Net Detectives activities in the future. (See also page 19).

The key messages of Net Detectives are:

- parents should monitor their children's use of the Internet, particularly chat rooms
- children should never give out personal information when they're chatting online
- if children want to meet face-to-face someone that they've chatted with, they should always take a parent with them.



The experts: from L to R Sharon Burden, Graham Rodrick, Nada Rogic, Suzanne Shipard, Sharon Trotter, Robert Campbell, Kate Brookes (Australian High Tech Crime Centre), Jane Marquard (Member, ABA), Catherine Page, Mary Jane Salier (General Counsel, OzEmail), Tania Fernandes (NSW Police), Russell Ng (NSW Police)



Sharon Burden and Graham Rodrick, organising the schools' sign-on.