



CYBERSAFETY OUTREACH: Professional Development for Educators successfully piloted

Primary and secondary level educators were keen participants in ACMA's pilot of its Cybersafety Outreach: Professional Development for Educators workshops, held on 31 October and 3 November 2008.

Equipping educators to teach their students about cybersafety is in keeping with the Australian Government's broad commitment to cybersafety education.

The professional development (PD) pilot incorporated cybersafety information, resources and advice for participating educators. In total, 52 teachers and industry stakeholders from state, Catholic and independent schools in both metropolitan and regional Victoria attended the program.

According to Chris Chapman, ACMA Chairman, 'ACMA is well-placed to deliver cybersafety education and training for teachers who play a vital role in ensuring children enjoy safe and positive internet experiences.

'This is an important step in providing educators with the cybersafety information and resources they need to appropriately teach our children. Educators have a leading role in helping children to manage the risks of online activities and we believe the PD program will enable teachers to perform this role with greater confidence.'

The pilot was facilitated by Greg Gebhart,

Australia's leading education technologist and Senior Cybersafety Trainer at ACMA. Since 2005, Greg has provided presentations to more than 37,500 students, teachers and parents.

The workshops are interactive and provide practical experience, resources and strategies for educators to help students become responsible digital citizens with an appreciation for the ethical issues involved.

Feedback from the workshops was extremely positive and will shape and inform the final Cybersafety Outreach PD program, which will be available in 2009 to all education sectors in all states and territories, across both metropolitan and regional areas.

ACMA continues to be a leading provider of comprehensive cybersafety initiatives and education programs as part of the Australian Government's cybersafety policy. These include undertaking targeted information and awareness-raising campaigns, activities and programs; developing cybersafety education materials for use in schools and homes; and researching current trends in cybersafety.

Over the next two years ACMA's Cybersafety Outreach program will offer:

- a national program of professional development for school teachers and educators
- a national program for trainee teachers in consultation with education providers including universities
- presentations nationally to parents, students, library staff and other key stakeholders on cybersafety issues.

Other features of ACMA's cybersafety program include:

- cybersafety education products for school-aged children
- a web portal offering schools educational media and lesson resources
- cybersafety publications
- a cybersafety website to be launched in 2009
- the Cybersafety Contact Centre, offering cybersafety information between 8am and 10pm in all states, and interpreting and TTY services on 1800 880 176
- a complaints hotline
- international collaboration to combat illegal online material
- internet safety publications on social networking, and the use of mobile phones and the internet
- a mobile phone guide
- research into young people's use of online media.