



Students, parents, grandparents, home tutors and teachers from Carnarvon School of the Air celebrating the school's 40th anniversary last year.

Rural kids tune in to cybersafety broadcast

Living hundreds of kilometres away from a local school is no longer a barrier for a group of primary school students and their parents keen to learn about the importance of staying safe online thanks to the ACMA's Cybersafety Outreach program.

On 11 November, the Cybersafety Outreach program broadcast its cybersafety message to School of the Air students for the first time with the help of Carnarvon School of the Air. Listening

In a two-part presentation, Beverley Yardley, an ACMA Cybersafety Outreach trainer, delivered the day's classes to primary school children via a satellite broadcast system called CENTRA, which

Cybersafety Outreach presentations cover the potential risks faced by children when they are online and highlight effective strategies to deal with issues such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content.

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in was an audience of children and parents within a 500 kilometre radius of Carnarvon in rural Western Australia.

'This is the first time we have broadcast our internet safety awareness messages across rural towns in Western Australia,' said Maria Vassiliadis, Manager, Cybersafety Outreach Section of the ACMA. 'We're very pleased to be able to work with the Carnarvon School of the Air to present to primary school children, their parents and home tutors across the region.'

'The internet is a vital tool for families in rural areas, enabling them to connect and communicate, and safety is paramount,' said Ms Vassiliadis.

'With the closest station 90 kilometres from Carnarvon, the School of the Air's satellite broadcast system is the most effective way to reach the families and provide them with the comprehensive cybersafety information they need.'

uses PowerPoint. If a student had a question or comment during the session, they used a hand or tick symbol to get Beverly's attention. Their question was then delivered as a text message and Beverly responded to them verbally.

The students' session was followed by a session for parents and home tutors. Eighteen families, including 33 children, were involved in the program, information about which was sent out on trucks to the families the week before.

Debbie Burridge, Registrar of the Carnarvon School of the Air, was delighted with the positive response from students and parents following the sessions.

'The turnout of kids and parents (to the sessions) was the best for a long time for a guest presenter. The word will spread about how good Bev's sessions were! Thank you and thanks to Bev for giving our school this opportunity.'

In addition to the Internet Safety Awareness presentations, a Professional Development for Educators workshop was held in Carnarvon on 12 November. Hosted by the Carnarvon School of the Air, 10 teachers from the Carnarvon area, including six from the School of the Air, attended and were provided with comprehensive training in online safety including digital literacy, positive online behaviour and personal and peer safety.

All presentations and materials are provided free of charge. 📺



ACMA Cybersafety Outreach trainer Beverley Yardley and Carnarvon School of the Air principal James Peletier delivering the cybersafety message to rural children.