# Safer Internet Day 2009

**ACMA marked Safer Internet Day 2009 on 10 February with a series of internet safety events and activities across Australia. This year's activities focused on the international Safer Internet Day themes of cyberbullying and safe social networking.**

ACMA supports Safer Internet Day as part of its national cybersafety education program.

'Cybersafety education is critical in helping children enjoy their online experiences. Safer Internet Day provides a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of how parents, teachers and children can manage the risks of online use,' said ACMA Chair, Chris Chapman. 'The issues of cyberbullying and safe social networking are important themes for this year's activities given the high profile each has with young people.'

ACMA organised a wide range of activities, including promotion of safety messages through stakeholder networks, competitions, and the launch of new safety initiatives.

The safety initiatives that ACMA conducted to mark the event were:

• the launch of Cybersmart Detectives to all schools in New South Wales, in which 450 students participated

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- the launch of a Cybersafety Badge in children's networking website SuperClubsPLUS Australia. Over 1,500 children commenced the activities that will earn them the badge within one week of the launch.
- a forum on popular teen social networking website, Habbo
- a teacher-focused forum about internet safety as part of a Cybersafety Outreach Professional Development workshop in Sydney
- online forums for secondary school students about cyberbullying and social networking. More than 100 students participated in the sessions.

'We are pleased to be working with a broad network of partners who have agreed to support this event. These include police, libraries, schools, Habbo, MySpace, Telstra, Google and Microsoft,' Mr Chapman said.

Safer Internet Day is observed in over fifty countries and recognised across Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia. The European network for internet safety InSafe runs international activities. Australia has participated in Safer Internet Day celebrations since 2004, when the event was launched.