



From left, Muka Groner, Michal Susskind, Mrs Riva Cohen and Tamar Adler of Beth Rivkah Ladies College at the launch of the Cybersmart website.

## Launch of the new Cybersmart website

Keeping Australian children safe online

Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, launched a new website, [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au), on Monday 13 July 2009.

The Minister joined the Acting Chair of the ACMA, Chris Cheah, and teachers and students at Beth Rivkah Ladies College, East St Kilda to officially launch the new website.

“Cybersmart” is about empowering Australian children and young people to be smart online and to become good digital citizens,’ said Mr Cheah. ‘Understanding how to navigate the online world safely is an important element in the development of digital literacy. By providing teachers and parents with clear, current and credible information about cybersafety, we assist them to develop in young people the critical skills needed to stay safe online and get the most from their online encounters.’

Senator Conroy said the new website hosted by the ACMA would be an important part of the Australian Government’s Cybersmart education program. The Cybersmart website brings resources and programs together at a single online point, with the Schools Gateway specifically catering to the needs of schools and teachers.

Senator Conroy said the Cybersmart website would also offer a dedicated online helpline and counselling service, provided by Kids Helpline, for children to access professional help using the online medium they understand and trust.

The government’s Youth Advisory Group will be consulted regarding ongoing improvements to the Cybersmart website, as will the Consultative Working Group and its subcommittee on cyberbullying.

‘The Cybersmart website is part of a national cybersafety education initiative being implemented by the ACMA,’ Senator Conroy said. ‘The program aims to give children, their parents and teachers sound advice on how to best manage online risks so their experiences are safe and positive.’

‘Although the internet has undoubtedly opened up a world of possibilities and benefits to Australian children, it has also exposed them to continually emerging and evolving dangers that did not previously exist,’ Senator Conroy said. ‘This website will provide parents, teachers, trainee teachers, librarians and children with up-to-date, comprehensive and age-appropriate online cybersafety resources and assistance.’

Visit the new Cybersmart website at [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au).