

Staying safe online with Cybersmart Detectives

More than 500 students from 15 schools across the country converged online on 9 September when the ACMA hosted an Australia-wide cybersafety activity to mark National Child Protection Week.

With support from South Australia Police, the ACMA showcased its recently enhanced Cybersmart Detectives online safety activity at St Mary's Catholic College in Adelaide. Representatives from local state, Catholic and independent education bodies attended the event, which celebrated the extension of this award-winning program to schools throughout Australia.

Cybersmart Detectives teaches children key internet safety skills in a safe online environment. It is available free of charge to schools Australia-wide.

'Online safety is a very real issue for children and young people,' said Chris Chapman, Chairman of the ACMA. 'Cybersmart Detectives aims to ensure that children have the skills they need to keep safe online. It presents children with an internet-themed scenario they can relate to—which helps them to learn about staying safe online, while having fun'.

Guided by a series of clues, students work as 'detectives' to solve the mystery of what is worrying a student and why. Cybersmart Guides—teachers or safety experts, who are also online—respond to questions and theories posed by the students and guide teams through each of the clues. As the scenario unfolds, the children discuss the risks of online and offline behaviours, and ways to manage these risks.



Targeted at children aged 11 to 12 years, the program emphasises four key safety messages:

- > Do not disclose personal or identifying information when chatting online.
- > Set profiles to private when using social networking sites.
- > Be aware that people online may not be who they say they are.
- > Talk to someone you trust if something is happening online that makes you feel uncomfortable.

The Adelaide event was one of the most successful to date, with students asking more than 2700 questions about cybersafety as they worked their way through the activity. The cybersafety message appeared to be getting through to the students, with one commenting, 'Don't trust anyone you just met on the computer'.

Senator Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, expressed his support for the ACMA's involvement.

'Cybersmart Detectives is a high-quality, hands-on program which helps Australian children stay safe online. These educational activities are a key part of the Australian Government's approach to cybersafety.'

The Cybersmart Detectives activity now runs weekly in schools across Australia. The initiative is supported by police, education, industry and child welfare advocates. ☎

For more information on Cybersmart Detectives and other ACMA cybersafety programs, visit the Cybersmart website at www.cybersmart.gov.au.



Students and special guests work their way through the Cybersmart Detectives online safety activity at St Mary's Catholic College in Adelaide.

Dates announced for RadComms2010

The ACMA's fourth annual RadComms conference will be held on 5 and 6 May 2010 in Melbourne.

RadComms2010 will focus on strategic, contemporary radiofrequency spectrum management issues.

'We see RadComms2010 as an important continuation of our interaction with the radiocommunications industry and again expect to stimulate discussion on the key issues facing us in managing an important and limited resource—the radiofrequency spectrum,' said Chris Chapman, Chairman of the ACMA.

'The ACMA aims to improve our RadComms conferences each year. Delegates can expect to see and hear discussion on new and emerging topics at RadComms2010, consistent with the ever-changing challenges of radiocommunications.'

RadComms2010, to be held on 5 and 6 May 2010 at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, will again offer Australia's radiocommunications industry the chance to directly interact with ACMA members and executive staff as well as their industry colleagues. ☎

Further information on the conference will be available closer to the date on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to About ACMA: The ACMA's role & activities > Conferences & events).

