

New online program trains teachers in cybersafety

Cybersmart Outreach recently launched an online professional development program called *Connect.ed*. The first of its kind in the world, this online PD is designed to train teachers in how to teach cybersafety to students and how to protect them from potential online dangers.

The program was developed with the assistance of teachers and leading cybersafety experts. It helps teachers navigate through the world of social media, provides strategies to protect students online and highlights how online activities affect young people in the real world.

Connect.ed covers:

- > cyberbullying
- > sexting
- > excessive internet use
- > mobile use
- > e-security
- > managing your digital reputation and digital profiling
- > what students are doing online at any year level.

A 2010 ACMA research report, *Australia in the digital economy: The shift to the online environment*, shows the internet is becoming increasingly important in the daily lives of Australians. More than 70 per cent of those aged 14 to 17 now spend more than seven hours online each week, while one in three aged over 14 years is online for more than 15 hours each week.

'Despite access to an extraordinary amount of information online, most young people do not have the guidance and direction required to manage their online experiences,' said Maria Vassiliadis, manager of the ACMA's Cybersmart Outreach program.

'Social networking sites, mobile phones and the internet are integral to the world of young people. Teachers and parents find it challenging to keep up with modern technology while their children embrace every new development.'

Connect.ed allows teachers to complete the course at their own pace—they can log in and out at times that suit them. The program also counts towards professional development requirements in each state.

Carly Tilley, a Melbourne-based primary school teacher who was involved in piloting *Connect.ed*, said, 'It doesn't matter how you teach, or what you know about technology or your own personal experiences, you can shape what you learn to meet your school community and the students you teach.'

Connect.ed is a national initiative free to primary and secondary teachers across all sectors.

It is designed to complement, enhance and enrich the face-to-face PD and information sessions that Cybersmart Outreach already delivers to thousands of Australian teachers every year. 📧

Connect.ed is now available online to teachers around Australia at www.cybersmart.gov.au/outreach.aspx.

Australian Government | acma
 Australian Communications and Media Authority
 cyber(smart:)

connect.ed

Online Cybersafety PD for teachers
 Register today at:
www.cybersmart.gov.au/outreach.aspx

Your students have never known a world without the internet.

- 91% of 12 – 17 year olds consider the web to be important in their lives
- 94% of 14 – 15 year olds have a social networking profile
- 61% of 12 – 17 year olds are likely to accept a friend request from strangers

What is your role as an educator?

Share this CD with your staff.
 Just 5 mins at your next staff meeting could change a student's life.