ACMA supports National Cyber Security Awareness Week

The ACMA recently joined 535 public, private and community organisations around Australia to promote important cybersecurity messages.

National Cyber Security Awareness Week is an annual Australian Government initiative that aims to help Australians better understand the risks of going online. Held from 6 to 11 June, the 2011 event highlighted the following steps that people can take to protect their personal and financial information:

> Install and renew your security software and set it to scan regularly.

> Turn on automatic updates on all your software, including your operating system and other applications.

> Think carefully before you click on links and attachments, particularly in emails and on social networking sites.

> Regularly adjust your privacy settings on social networking sites.

> Download the government's Cybersafety Help Button so you can easily report or talk to someone about anything online that makes you feel uncomfortable or threatened.

> Stop and think before you post any photos or financial and personal information about yourself or your friends and family.

> Use strong passwords and change them at least twice a year.

> Talk to your family about good online safety.

To be part of National Cyber Security Awareness Week again nicely complements the ACMA's various cybersafety programs.

NetBasics is targeted at middle secondary students like the Year 10 class at Marsden High School.

'Everyone everywhere needs to be mindful of security issues whenever and however they go online,' said ACMA Chairman Chris Chapman. 'To be part of National Cyber Security Awareness Week again nicely complements the ACMA's various cybersafety programs.'

As part of its activities, the ACMA released a research report, *An overview of international cyber-security awareness raising and educational initiatives*, which examines international approaches to cybersecurity education. The ACMA also participated in a number of events during the week, including:

> Conducting an interactive shared learning Cybersmart Hero event at International Grammar School, Ultimo, on Tuesday 31 May. Cybersmart Hero addresses the problem of cyberbullying and the responsibilities of those who are in the best position to prevent it—bystanders. During the rest of the week, the ACMA's Cybersafety Programs team conducted nine other Cybersmart Detective events across Australia.

> Launching NetBasics—an exciting new cybersecurity education resource for secondary school students—at Marsden High School, Sydney, on Wednesday 1 June.

> Participating in roundtable discussions in Sydney on Thursday 2 June. The ACMA's Suzanne Shipard, Manager of e-Security Strategy and Education, was a panellist at both the Internet Industry Association's roundtable on cloud computing and cybersecurity awareness-raising campaigns, and the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network's roundtable on smartphone safety.

More information on National Cyber Security Awareness Week is available at **www.staysmartonline.gov.au**. A copy of *An overview of international cyber-security awareness raising and educational initiatives* is on the ACMA website at **www.acma.gov.au** (go to About ACMA: Publications & research > Research).

Getting back to NetBasics

When it comes to making sure online experiences are safe and secure, everyone can take some time to brush up on the basics—as a group of Year 10 students from Marsden High School discovered at the launch of an exciting new cybersecurity education resource called NetBasics.

'Employing basic security precautions is crucial to minimise the risk of falling prey to cyber criminals,' said ACMA Chairman Chris Chapman. 'NetBasics will help equip teenagers with the skills and knowledge they need to ensure their online experiences are safe, secure and rewarding.'

Targeted at middle secondary school students as they begin to fully engage with the digital economy, NetBasics is a series of 11 short animated episodes that follow the online experiences of the Jones family. It reinforces the foundations of online security through the entertaining animations and covers important cybersecurity topics like online shopping, online trickery, online banking, and the importance of installing and updating security software.

NetBasics was launched by ACMA Deputy Chairman Richard Bean during National Cyber Security Awareness Week, and he welcomed representatives from Marsden High School; NetSafe NZ; the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy; Yahoo! and the Hong Kong Bureau of Education.

All of the NetBasics episodes and support materials are hosted on the ACMA's Cybersmart website at **www.cybersmart.gov.au**, which contains a wealth of resources, tips, activities and practical advice to help kids, teens, parents, teachers and librarians stay safe online.

ACMA Deputy Chairman Richard Bean launching the NetBasics program at Marsden High School, Sydney.